



Daily Report

East Asia

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FBIS-EAS-96-088

Monday

6 May 1996

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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-96-088

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Japan

Japan: Internal Records Note 'U.S. Pressure' Behind Defense Review

OW0405110396 Tokyo KYODO in English
1019 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 4 KYODO — Japan agreed to review guidelines for joint defense with the United States to fend off U.S. demands that a bilateral pact on cross-servicing be applicable also in case of a military conflict or other emergencies, according to internal records of the talks and government sources.

The three ruling parties will soon launch deliberations on how bilateral defense could be strengthened in the event of a contingency in the area surrounding Japan, as pledged in the joint security declaration issued during U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Japan last month.

The matter is highly controversial because some fear such action could constitute collective defense, which is prohibited under Japan's pacifist constitution.

The fact that U.S. pressure made Tokyo give in and agree to a review of the defense guidelines is expected to throw the entire debate in a different light.

The trade-off is evident in the "top secret" minutes of a negotiations on the joint security declaration between Joseph Nye, then U.S. assistant secretary of defense for regional security affairs, and Masaki Orita, head of the foreign ministry's North American Affairs Bureau, at the ministry last Sept. 4.

According to the document, Orita demanded that the declaration avoid mentioning any particular problems that could trigger a political debate, especially reference to emergency response.

But Nye protested saying that the declaration must mention real issues such as defense cooperation to show to both nations' legislatures, the press and the public that it was not just empty rhetoric.

Another U.S. defense official present at the talks also urged that both sides secretly also discuss redefining the bilateral security alliance with view to potential trouble in the East China Sea, Chinese military exercises and developments surrounding Taiwan, foreshadowing escalating tensions between China and Taiwan in the following months.

Later, when China stepped up its saber-rattling by sending ballistic missiles into the seas off Taiwan in March, the U.S. intensified its demands for a strong security declaration and also demanded that a planned bilateral Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) be applicable during both peacetime and times of military conflict.

But Orita, pointing to misgivings cited by the Social Democratic Party and the cabinet legislation bureau, insisted that the pact, which stipulates that the armed forces of both countries help each other with fuel and other commodities and services in joint drills, be limited to peacetime only.

To break the deadlock, the U.S. finally agreed to the "peacetime" condition for ACSA in exchange for a clear reference to a guideline revision in the defense declaration and a Japanese pledge for stronger rear support including use of civilian airports by U.S. troops in the event of an emergency in the far east.

A Japanese Government source, who was involved in the negotiations, said, "clearly there was (U.S.) pressure. But we also made the decision, because readiness for emergencies is also an unresolved political issue for Japan."

Japan: LDP's Yamasaki Says Tokyo Can Back U.S. Outside of Far East

OW0505074696 Tokyo KYODO in English
0632 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 5 KYODO — The top policy-maker of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) voiced his opinion Sunday (5 May) that Japan can support the U.S. military outside of the Far East region in emergencies under the current Japan-U.S. security treaty.

"The government said in 1960 the U.S. military under the treaty might carry out operations in areas other than the Far East," said Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the LDP Policy Affairs Research Council, in a TV ASAHI program.

Referring to a scheduled review of the guidelines on defense cooperation between Japan and the United States in the event of an emergency in the Far East, Yamasaki said, "We are attempting to do what we should for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region."

Yamasaki, however, also said, "in future consultations, we will probably refuse to support the U.S. military in a case in which Japan's peace or stability is not involved."

Touching on the issue of the right to collective security, Yamasaki said, "I want to study what Japan can do in supporting the U.S. Military in the background, but we will not carry out any military actions jointly with the U.S."

Yamasaki said Japan and the U.S. should put first priority on the Korean situation as a possible case for military cooperation under the accord.

Yamasaki said in the program, "It's possible that North Korea could explode due to food shortages."

Meanwhile also on the program, Social Democratic Party policy board chairman Shigeru Ito said Japan is not all wed to support the U.S. in carrying out its military action, even in the background, saying, "Japan should consider giving support only when Japanese abroad need help or the problem of refugees arises."

Japan: Senior Party Officials Discuss Japan-U.S. Security Alliance

OW0505151296 Tokyo Asahi Television Network in Japanese 0108 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Summary] Tokyo Asahi Television Network in Japanese at 0108 GMT on 5 May, in its "Sunday Project" program, carries a 37-minute roundtable discussion with Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Policy Research Council; Shigeru Ito, chairman of the Social Democratic Party [SDP] Policy Board Committee; Kazuo Shii, the Communist Party Japan secretary general; and Kansei Nakano, the New Frontier Party [NFP] official. Freelance political commentator Soichiro Tahara moderates the discussion.

At 0108 GMT, Tahara begins the discussion by asking Shii to give his view of the government's recent move to review the guidelines for Japan-U.S. defense cooperation, as well as the collective self-defense rights. Shii says: "I think that the government has radically changed the nature of the bilateral security treaty for the worse by taking advantage of the Okinawa base issue." He says that in exchange for the return of U.S. Marine Corps [USMC] Futenma base, the government allowed the permanent presence of U.S. bases in Japan by accepting the two conditions: transfer of Futenma's function to Iwakuni and Kadena Air Bases and by promising Japan's defense cooperation with U.S. forces not only in emergencies in Japan but also in emergencies in Asia. Yamasaki refutes Shii's remarks, saying: "We have not changed the nature of the bilateral security pact. Mr. Tahara asked me if the pact has been changed for the better or the worse. However, we just try to do what Japan should do." He then says that from the beginning, the bilateral security pact deals with emergencies in Japan and the Far East, and that the government needs to review its view of the collective self-defense rights as a step toward dealing with a possible regional crisis, such as tension in the Korean peninsula. Ito says that there is the possibility that the recent bilateral joint declaration on security and the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement would change the bilateral security pact. Nakano says although it is easy for the government to formulate the recent

security declaration thanks to changes in public opinion, it is doubtful if the Hashimoto cabinet will be able to really fulfill those promises, such as return of the MCAS Futenma.

At 0123 GMT, the topic shifts to the Japan-U.S. defense cooperation in emergencies. Asked about what kind of defense cooperation Japan will extend in emergencies, Yamasaki suggests the following: cooperate with U.S. forces in evacuating Japanese people residing overseas; permit U.S. forces to use airports and other facilities in Japan; and provide the U.S. side with rear support. However, Ito says that the SDP does not allow defense cooperation other than assistance in evacuating Japanese residing overseas. Regarding NFP President Ozawa's view that the ban on use of the collective defense-rights should be lifted, Nakano says that in view of the present public opinion, Japan should limit itself to providing rear support.

Asked about the gap between the views of the LDP and SDP on Japan's defense cooperation, Yamasaki says, "It is possible for the three ruling coalition parties to coordinate their views by November. Mr. Ito once told me that it is possible for Japan to provide the U.S. forces with various support, such as food, water, and medical service. Reacting to Yamasaki's remark, Ito says: "The ruling coalition parties have not yet started discussion on actions we should take in line with the joint security declaration. We seek to start discussion after the golden week holidays to form our view by fall."

Shii says that as for Japan's defense cooperation in emergencies, U.S. forces requested the following during the tension on the Korean peninsula two years ago: 1) U.S. military bases in Japan be fully utilized; 2) Japan provide U.S. forces with all the fuel they need; 3) Japan allow U.S. forces to use Airports in Sapporo, Narita, and Niigata in emergencies; and 4) the possibility of bringing in nuclear arms in Japan be studied. He then says there is a big gap in the two countries' views on this matter. Yamasaki refutes: "Japan and the United States stand on equal footing. We will clearly show what Japan can do and cannot do in consultations before taking actions in emergencies." However, he says that it is not fair if Japan does nothing when the United States, its ally, tries hard to protect the Japanese people in emergencies. He says: "Japan should clearly decide what it can do during emergencies within the scope of the Constitution banning the use of collective self-defense rights, and the United States understands our stand." Discussion ends at 0145 GMT.

Japan: Government Expected To Study Law Revision on Use of Sobe Site

OW0305141096 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 3 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The national government's request for approval of emergency use of a plot of land within the U.S. military's Sobe Communications Site [SCS] (in Yomitan village), Okinawa Prefecture, is expected to be rejected by the Okinawa Prefectural Land Expropriation Committee. Given the situation, the government will study necessary measures from that point on, including revision of laws and enactment of new legislation, in order to ensure the continued use of U.S. military facilities.

With regard to the continued "illegal occupation" of the SCS, the government has explained that "it is not necessarily illegal," citing such grounds as Japan's obligation to provide land to the U.S. military under the Japan-U.S. security treaty (as stated by Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama).

However, the land expropriation committee still requires two to three months to complete deliberations on compulsory land use, because it has to follow such procedures as notification and circulation of a request for a verdict [saiketsu shinseisho] on forced land use. The national government will inevitably be placed in a more awkward situation because the period of illegal use is expected to be prolonged.

Even if the national government wins the right to use a plot of land within the SCS in the end, lease contracts (for approximately 3,000 landowners) on land within Kadena Air Base and other U.S. military facilities expire in May 1997. If the government leaves the situation as it is, there will inevitably be greater confusion.

As a concrete measure to deal with the situation, it has been proposed that the special law on land used by troops stationed in Japan, which stipulates the current procedures for compulsory land use, be revised to enable the prime minister to pronounce a verdict if the land expropriation committee does not approve compulsory land use within a set period of time.

Japan: Government To Return Part of U.S. Training Area on Okinawa

OW0605044196 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 4 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] With the realignment and reduction of the U.S. military bases in Okinawa, it has been decided that part of the Northern Training Area [NTA] will be returned to local landowners. As of 3 May, the government decided the coastal area located close to the

current NTA site should be returned, and an accord has already been reached with the U.S. military.

The government intends to start during May the selection of other candidate sites for return, and to provide the names and other details about these selected sites in November in the final report of the "Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO)."

The NTA (covering an area of approximately 7,500 hectares) is the largest U.S. military facility in Japan, and it has been used by U.S. Marines for a variety of training, including guerrilla warfare. As part of the training program, guerrilla troops will also be given training in landing from the coast.

In the accord reached recently, Japan and the United States have agreed to return more than half of the NTA area, mainly the northern areas. As the area to be returned covers the coastal part used for training in landing operations, and as there are no coastal stretches in other areas, the U.S. side maintains that "it will be necessary to have coastal land where troops can land," and the Japanese side has decided to provide a new land plot.

It seems most likely that Ozaki in Kunigami village, located to the south of the NTA, will be provided as the site for the new training area. And it is estimated the area is likely "to cover approximately one hectare, and is needed to provide an area for landing operations training" [according to a Defense Agency source].

Japan: Murayama, Others Address Constitution Anniversary Rallies

OW0305133896 Tokyo KYODO in English 1304 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 3 KYODO — Rallies were held around the country Friday [3 May] to mark the 49th anniversary of Japan's post-war constitution, with revisionists calling for changes to the war-renouncing charter and defenders lauding its pacifist ideals.

At Hibiya Public Hall in central Tokyo, about 700 people took part in a forum defending "the constitution, peace and human rights" to celebrate Japan's national Constitution Day holiday.

Tsuruo Yamaguchi, former director general of the Management and Coordination Agency and member of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), expressed concern at the forum that the issue of scaling down the U.S. military facilities in Okinawa has been transformed into a discussion of the need for a law to deal with emergencies.

"It is of primary importance that Japan and the United States cooperate in order to avoid emergency in the Far East," said former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who leads the SDP, a partner in the tripartite ruling coalition.

Meanwhile, at the Chiyoda Public Hall, advocates of a revised Japanese Constitution called for allowing the nation to "exercise the right of collective self-defense."

Announcing their own constitutional draft, about 500 participants voiced their demand for revising the constitution.

Advocates of a revised constitution seek a greater Japanese role in UN peacekeeping activities in order to enhance the country's political position in the world and stronger Self-Defense Forces (SDF) able to better respond in times of national emergency.

Japan: Arguments Rekindled Over Exercising Right to Self-Defense

OW0605003996 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 3 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

["Article" by Natsuki Mototani: "Argument Rekindled Over Article 9 of the Constitution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Debate over Article 9 of the constitution has flared up again in political circles. Conservative forces such as the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and Shinshinto [New Frontier Party] have taken the initiative in arguments over the issue of defense cooperation with the United States in cases of emergency. Meanwhile, the Social Democratic Party, which once spearheaded a constitution protection movement, has been thrown on the defensive. I have examined the present Japanese "politics and Constitution" debate because it is related to the changing international security environment and the future of political realignment.

Arguments over the constitutionality of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] were the core of postwar political strife. The debate virtually ended when the (then) Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], in a major policy shift, admitted the SDF was constitutional and endorsed maintaining the Japan-U.S. security system following the inauguration of the coalition government led by (then) SDPJ Chairman Tomiichi Murayama in June, 1994. However, the Japan-U.S. joint security declaration issued in April has rekindled a debate on the exercise of the collective self-defense right. This comes at a time when politicians in Japan are being asked to make greater efforts to realize the ideal indicated in Article 9 of the constitution, which refers to "sincerely aspiring to international peace," through the operations of the SDF.

The government asserts that Article 9 does not deny the right of self-defense, that it allows maintaining "necessary minimum forces," and the SDF cannot be considered "war potential banned by Section 2 of Article 9." However, it has not given a definition of "necessary minimum forces," claiming that "it is subject to change depending on the international situation, levels of military technology, and other conditions."

In the 1970's, when the former Soviet Union steadily increased its military strength in the Far East, the government abandoned the conventional defense program aimed at maintaining "necessary defense strength" against threats. Instead, it adopted a policy of maintaining "fundamental defense strength," which was merely aimed at avoiding the creation of a "power vacuum [chikara no kuhaku]," to check the constant increase in defense spending. The policy was a basic idea in the former National Defense Program Outline drawn up in 1976. It has also been introduced to the new defense program outline worked out in 1995.

However, Japan's defense spending for the current fiscal year is more than 4.8 trillion yen, exceeding Britain's and France's defense budgets. This year, the mass production of F-2 support fighters begins. Also, the SDF plans to introduce Aegis ships and Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) to counter possible missile attacks. As such, Japan has increased "relative power [sotaiteki na jitsuryoku]" every year in terms of equipment.

Meanwhile, the new defense program outline has given the SDF new duties, including peacekeeping missions overseas based on the UN Peacekeeping Operations Cooperation Law, relief operations in large-scale disasters such as last year's sarin gas attack on a Tokyo subway system and the great Hanshin earthquake, and antiterrorism activities. The Defense Agency now thinks more strongly that "although the general public once treated the SDF coolly, they have become supportive of and placed greater hopes in the SDF." The agency considers this is the time to improve software (operations), in addition to upgrading hardware (equipment).

Behind the Adoption of Unified View Were Attempts To Remove Confrontation Between the LDP and SDPJ

To improve software, it will be necessary to restudy defense cooperation with the United States in cases of emergency in the Far East, as pledged at the Japan-U.S. summit, and to make legal preparations for smooth SDF operations in emergencies and crisis management. These matters will likely arouse controversy in political circles.

After heated argument, the 1994 coalition government presented an unified view on Article 9. The view, which was the result of confrontation and compromise between the LDP and the SDPJ under the post-1955 political system, remains. Also, with public interpretation of Article 9 changing, concern about Japan reverting to its "old path" is diminishing.

However, Asian neighbors remain sensitive about Japan's every action. Popular arguments are urged over what role the SDF should play in the new Japan-U.S. security system covering the Asia-Pacific region that is under study.

**Japan: Kajiyama, Taiwan Security Official
Reportedly Met 19 Feb**

OW0405142796 Tokyo KYODO in English
1257 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hong Kong, May 4 KYODO — The secretary general of Taiwan's national Security Council, Ding Mou-shih, visited Japan in February to discuss rising tension in the Taiwan strait, ahead of a similar trip to the United States, a Taiwan daily reported Saturday [4 May].

Ding held talks with Chief Cabinet secretary Seiroku Kajiyama around the Feb. 19 lunar new year, the LIBERTY TIMES said, noting that Taiwan Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien admitted Friday that the trip took place.

The contact is certain to draw fire from China, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province with no right to its own foreign diplomacy.

Ding was accompanied by Chuang Ming-yao, a strategy adviser to Taiwanese President Li Teng-hui and former navy commander in chief, tipped to become the next head of the Taipei economic and cultural representative office in Japan, the paper said.

Washington has meanwhile confirmed that Ding met March 11 with the U.S. deputy assistant to the president for national security affairs, Samuel Berger, and Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff.

The meeting took place as tensions between China and Taiwan reached a peak due to China's series of military drills near the island preceding Taiwan's first direct presidential election March 23.

Taiwan's Security Council is modeled after the U.S. National Security Council and is presided over by Li.

The paper said it was likely that in Tokyo Ding also met Defense Agency officials to sound out how Tokyo would respond to an emergency in the Taiwan strait and to pressure the Japanese Government to use its influence

to dissuade China from stepping up military pressure on the island.

In a related development, Taiwan's semiofficial Central News Agency (CNA) quoted Chien as saying Saturday that Ding's talks in the U.S. served to explain both sides' stance on the issue and that such discussions might take place again.

Chien said Ding had been visiting as a representative for Li in his private capacity, "but not as a special presidential envoy," CNA reported.

**Japan: Ozawa Reiterates Call for an Early Snap
Election**

OW0505075796 Tokyo KYODO in English
0743 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, May 5 KYODO — The leader of Japan's main opposition party, Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), on Sunday [5 May] reiterated his call for an early snap election and brushed aside a proposal for a dialogue to set the timing of such a poll.

"There is no need for a dialogue. We have demanded a dissolution (of the Diet) and they can do it whenever they want," Shinshinto Chief Ichiro Ozawa told a group of Japanese reporters traveling with him on his trip to China.

Ozawa made the remarks against the backdrop of a proposal put forward by some members of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the largest group within Japan's tripartite ruling coalition, for a dialogue with Shinshinto over an early general election.

An election of the House of Representatives, Japan's lower house, is not mandated until mid-1977 [as received].

Ozawa arrived in Beijing on Thursday for an 11-day visit at the invitation of the Chinese Communist Party for talks with Chinese leaders.

He is scheduled to meet Chinese president Jiang Zemin Sunday night and the two are expected to discuss regional security issues and bilateral relations, according to aides to Ozawa.

The Japan-U.S. security treaty is expected to come high on the agenda at the Jiang-Ozawa meeting.

Beijing has expressed concern about a declaration issued last month by Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton on closer cooperation under the bilateral security pact.

Japan: Ozawa Holds 'Cordial' Talks With PRC President

OW0505161196 Tokyo KYODO in English
1551 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, May 5 KYODO — Japanese opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa held cordial talks with Chinese President Jiang Zemin Sunday [5 May], with both men calling for stronger Japanese-Chinese relations toward the next century.

During the one-hour talks at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing, Jiang and the head of the Shinshinto party (New Frontier Party) discussed Japan's wartime history with China and the need for future peace and stability in the Asian region, a shinshinto spokesman told journalists.

The two did not discuss recent Japanese concerns over China's nuclear weapons program or recent live-fire Chinese military exercises in the Taiwan strait, the spokesman said.

In an apparent reference to Japanese politicians who have recently maintained that Japan did not wage a war of aggression against China, Jiang said neither country should forget the past, while also looking toward the future, the spokesman said.

Ozawa said Japan has many kinds of politicians so it is certain that some will have a "mistaken understanding of history," but if "honest people" made stronger efforts to develop better bilateral relations with China, these mistaken viewpoints will come under pressure, he said.

Jiang welcomed Ozawa's remarks, the spokesman said, and quoted Jiang as saying, "we need to look forward. In the next century it is important for China and Japan to make important contributions to the world."

Both leaders dispelled the notion of a "China threat" and agreed that cooperation between Asian nations was important for the development of the region.

Ozawa is on an 11-day visit to China, his first ever as head of the Shinshinto party, and will visit Chongqing and Shanghai before returning to Tokyo on May 12.

In talks held Friday with a senior Chinese military leader, Ozawa questioned China's continued nuclear testing and China's March military exercises in the Taiwan strait which greatly rose tensions in the region.

He is scheduled to meet with Chinese Premier Li Peng on Monday.

Japan: Li Peng: No Objection to Tokyo's Economic Ties With Taiwan

OW0605093196 Tokyo KYODO in English
0853 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, May 6 KYODO — Chinese Premier Li Peng on Monday [6 May] told Japan's opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa that China has no objection to Japan's moves to enhance economic ties with Taiwan, officials of the main opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) said.

Citing the historical background to economic ties between Japan and Taiwan, Li told Ozawa, who heads Shinshinto, that China is not opposed to Japanese efforts to maintain and strengthen those links, according to the officials, traveling with Ozawa.

Japanese observers saw Li's remarks also as an indication that China hopes Japan will not expand political ties with Taiwan.

Li also said China wants to improve relations with the United States, but voiced hope that the U.S. will respect the three bilateral communiques issued since the establishment of diplomatic ties.

Ozawa reiterated his position that the Taiwan issue is an internal affair of China as long as the Taiwanese people say there is only one China.

Ozawa is scheduled to leave Beijing later in the day to visit China's western city of Chongqing, where he is expected to inspect a joint Japan-China auto manufacturing venture.

Japan: Qian Qichen Asks Takeshita for Help in Yen Loan Extension

OW0405150896 Tokyo KYODO in English
1425 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, May 4 KYODO — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen asked former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita for help Saturday [4 May] in implementing Japan's 580 billion yen loan package, officials traveling with Takeshita said.

The officials said Qian asked Takeshita over dinner to "pay attention" to Japan's fourth yen loan package for fiscal 1996-98 amid calls within the Liberal Democratic Party to freeze the aid to China in light of China's recent military bullying against Taiwan.

Qian also noted that he remembers Takeshita's role in the last yen loan package to China, the officials said.

Takeshita told the foreign minister he is proud of his role in drawing up and disbursing Japan's first three yen loan programs.

Japan: China Opens Environment Center Built With Aid From Tokyo

OW0505080996 Tokyo KYODO in English
0758 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, May 5 KYODO — An environmental protection center built with help from Japan was opened here Sunday [5 May] during the visit of former Japanese Prime Minister Noburo Takeshita to China, aides traveling with Takeshita said.

Takeshita said he was pleased to announce the opening of the Japan-China Environmental Protection Center, built in part with a 10.5 billion yen grant from Japan, explaining that he felt "like a parent who has given a lifetime gift to children."

The center has facilities for monitoring the global environment and research departments for topics such as global warming. It will also study domestic environmental issues and exchange information with Japan, they said.

In 1988, then Premier Takeshita and Chinese Premier Li Peng agreed on a 10-year plan to promote friendship and peace. China offered to provide land and other facilities valued at 66.3 million yuan (860 million yen) for the environment center.

Takeshita held a meeting Saturday with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who asked the former prime minister for help in implementing Japan's 580 billion yen loan package for China, the aides said.

Japan: MOFA Official on PRC Nuclear Tests, Yen-Based Loans

OW0605004096 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 5 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] On 1 May, a senior Foreign Ministry [MOFA] official said: "China conducted nuclear tests last May and August. Since it has stated its intention to continue with tests, it is fully predictable that China will resume tests. In consideration of such factors as the weather conditions at the test ground, it will not be a surprise even if tests should be resumed in the very near future." In this way, the official indicated his view that China may possibly conduct nuclear tests once again as early as within this month.

When China conducted tests at the end of August last year, the Japanese Government decided to freeze its grants-in-aid to China. Since then, the government has shown its stance on opposing the nuclear tests.

However, the official indicated a negative view on taking measures to freeze yen-based loans if China should resume its tests in the future.

Japan: Murayama-Led SDP Delegation Expected To Visit PRC

OW0205062096 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 1 May 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Shigeru Ito, Policy Board chairman of the Social Democratic Party [SDP], returned from China on the evening of 30 April. He said that he met with Li Shuzheng, CPC International Liaison Department head, during his stay in Beijing, and also disclosed that Li informed him of CPC plan to invite an SDP delegation led by party head Tomiichi Murayama to visit China. The SDP will basically accept the invitation and send a delegation as early as within this month. It is most likely that Murayama will hold talks with PRC President Jiang Zemin.

In response to the redefinition of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements, Ito visited China to exchange views with Chinese leaders on East Asian security and the Japan-DPRK talks on normalizing diplomatic ties.

According to Ito, the Chinese side said: "It is fine for Japan and the United States to conduct joint exercises under Article V of the security treaty. However, the point at issue lies in Article VI (which deals with the emergencies in the Far East). We will not remain silent if an attempt is made to expand the range of the Far East."

Japan: G-7 Summit Expected To Address Economic Growth, Stable Forex

OW0505062696 Tokyo KYODO in English
0603 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 5 KYODO — Economic topics at the summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries in Lyons in June will focus on ways to sustain global economic growth and stabilize the currency market, Japanese Government sources said Sunday [5 May].

The June 27-29 meeting will also address ways to reform international organizations for more efficient economic assistance of developing countries, reinforcement of a multilateral trading system and creation of a scheme for aid to Russia, the sources said.

On the macroeconomic front, Japan, with its economy growing gradually, will probably be asked to play a key role in putting the world economy on a sustainable growth track, the sources said.

Specifically, Japan's G-7 partners will ask Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to make an explicit commitment to maintain the current easy credit policy for smoother

economic recovery, in line with a recent pledge by Finance Minister Wataru Kubo, the sources said.

During the April meeting of the G-7 top finance officials in Washington, Kubo said ensuring economic recovery is the highest priority facing Japan, a comment taken by other G-7 nations as an international pledge for steady economic recovery.

The Lyons Summit will take place at a time when it is feared that the European economy might stall while the fiscally strapped U.S. Government is looking for any means to keep its domestic economy in good shape ahead of the November presidential election, the sources said.

On the currency issue, Japan is expected to seek G-7 support for keeping the yen's value stable at the current level against the dollar and other major currencies.

In the grouping's two meetings last year, G-7 finance ministers and central bank governors agreed to cooperate in currency markets for orderly reversal of the weak dollar, following the U.S. currency's plunge below 80 yen in the spring of 1995.

Currently, the dollar is hovering around 105 yen.

As for employment issues, the G-7 leaders are expected to confirm their commitment to do their utmost to stimulate the world job market in line with recommendations to be made at a may ministerial meeting of the organization for economic cooperation and development, the sources said.

The G-7 leaders will invite top officials of four major international organizations to their Lyons meeting, for the first time since the G-7 summit was inaugurated in 1975, the sources said.

Representatives of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization will consult with the G-7 leaders on the efficient use of funds for aid projects in developing countries, the sources said.

The sources said ways to reform these organizations, including organizational streamlining, will also be discussed.

Russia might take part in the meeting between the four organizations and the G-7 nations. But it is unlikely that the G-7 club will invite Russia to attend its economic session, the sources said.

Other topics at the summit will include groundwork for the first WTO ministerial meeting to be held in Singapore in December and how to protect and improve the global environment, the sources said.

Japan: Government Said 'Cautious' Over Resuming Talks With DPRK

OW0605102196 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 5 May 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] With regard to the talks on normalizing diplomatic relations with the DPRK (North Korea), the Government is now seeking a time for resuming such talks while closely watching moves to call for holding quadrilateral talks (among the ROK, the United States, North Korea and China) on promoting peace on the Korean peninsula, as proposed by the United States and the ROK. There is a strong feeling within the ruling parties that "preliminary talks (on resuming the talks)" should start as early as possible (as stated by Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the Policy Research Council of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP].)

However, the government is taking a cautious approach toward this issue, maintaining that "it is not appropriate to take a big stride toward normalization," (as stated by Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda). By deciding that it is undesirable for Japan to make any conspicuous moves, the government will be forced to take rather delicate measures to deal with this issue. While watching the development of the quadrilateral consultations, the government will have to consider how to resume talks on negotiations.

At the Japan-ROK foreign ministerial talks held in South Africa on 30 April, Foreign Minister Ikeda explained Japan's stance on observing the development of quadrilateral talks. Moreover, at the Japan-U.S.-ROK consultations of vice foreign ministers to be held on Cheju Island on 13 and 14 May, the government intends to exchange views on measures to deal with North Korea, and also to secure a unified understanding of the issue on resuming Japan-DPRK talks.

The government has taken a positive approach toward resuming normalization talks. For example, senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] were dispatched to Beijing for contacts with North Korean officials in March. As a result, the preparatory work for resuming normalizations talks reached such a stage in April that "no more ground-leveling work is necessary" (as stated by a senior MOFA official).

However, the approach has been shifted to a more cautious one because the conditions have changed. For example, North Korea has made moves toward violating the Korean War armistice, and the United States and ROK have since proposed holding the quadrilateral consultations.

The objective of the quadrilateral consultations lies in bringing about the South-North dialogue. Therefore, the government is concerned over the possibility that if Japan should continue to make moves for Japan-DPRK talks, it may break the concerted steps among Japan, the United States, and the ROK.

However, if North Korea should agree to attend the quadrilateral consultations, it would meet with the ROK's demand that "Japan should not hold normalization talks with North Korea without consulting the ROK first." At the same time, talks could be held on the attempt to violate the armistice agreement. Thus, conditions will be created for Japan to promote normalization talks with North Korea.

Since there is a great possibility that North Korea will agree to attend the quadrilateral talks, some government officials believe that "once conditions are created, negotiations may be resumed as early as in May" (as stated by a government source.)

However, the government intends to be doubly prepared for developments in the situation: Even if North Korea should fail to agree to attend the quadrilateral conference, the government will still seek ways to resume normalization talks. It is expected that tension will grow in North Korea around June when the food crisis may reach its worst. Even under such circumstances, it is believed that "channels for direct dialogue are still needed" (as stated by a MOFA official).

Moreover, efforts are being made to develop the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO), with the United States, the ROK and Japan playing the major roles. Japan's large share of the enormous expenses for promoting North Korea's light water reactor project will be disclosed as early as this summer. Therefore, executives of the ruling parties are concerned because they maintain that "it will be difficult to arrive at a consensus of public opinion if money will be provided without the normalization talks being resumed."

Tokyo, Pyongyang Officials Reportedly Meet in Beijing

*OW0605110596 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 6 May 96 Morning Edition p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kim Yong-nam, North Korean deputy premier and concurrently foreign minister, disclosed that counselor-level officials of Japan and North Korea met in Beijing in late April to discuss the resumption of negotiations for normalization of diplomatic ties between the two countries. This was disclosed by the U.S.-based US Asia News Service's Editor in Chief Mun Myong-ja, who visited North Korea and had an exclusive interview with Foreign Minister Kim on 27

April. The US Asia News Service published contents of the interview on 5 May.

Foreign Minister Kim reportedly said that the recent contact by the Japanese and North Korean Government officials was the "second" of its kind, following the one in March, and that "relations between the DPRK and Japan will improve by the negotiations," according to Mun. Moreover, high officials of the North Korean Government, who are close associates of General Secretary Kim Chong-il, reportedly told Mun that the general secretary is optimistic about the Japan- DPRK and U.S.-DPRK negotiations for normalization of diplomatic ties, saying that "although we may have some difficulties, the negotiations will progress smoothly."

On a proposal made on 16 April by top U.S. and South Korean officials to hold quadrilateral talks among the ROK, DPRK, the United States, and China to talk about permanent peace on the Korean peninsula, Foreign Minister Kim said: "We do not know whether it is a starting point for signing a peace accord (in addition to the current armistice agreement) or related to the fact that the agreement (made at the end of 1991) to sign a nonaggression treaty between the North and South has not been fulfilled." According to Mun, however, General Secretary Kim reportedly is very much interested in the proposal, saying that "we need to study the U.S. intentions [ito]."

Regarding the U.S.-DPRK relations, Mun pointed out that the establishment of liaison offices in both countries is being delayed because, among other things, North Korea refuses to accept U.S. Government requests, including the one to allow government officials to visit each other through Panmunjom, as conditions of establishing the liaison offices.

In response, Foreign Minister Kim stressed, while showing understanding of the U.S. requests, that "all issues, including the establishment of the liaison offices, will be settled if a peace accord is signed" between the United States and North Korea, who are cosigners of the armistice agreement.

Since the beginning of this year, Japanese and North Korean Government officials have been actively contacting each other in Beijing; officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] and North Korean Government official met in mid-March, too. Although it has not disclosed what they actually discussed at the recent meeting, MOFA admits that both countries continue to hold unofficial meetings.

Regarding negotiations for normalization of diplomatic ties between Japan and the DPRK, which have been

suspended since November 1992, the Japanese Government is trying, through behind-the-scene discussions, to find out if preliminary negotiations at vice minister-level will be held during the first half of this year. Japan is sounding out North Korea and looking for a chance to resume the normalization talks while keeping an eye on development of holding the quadrilateral talks and the North-South dialogue.

Japan: Ikeda on Difficulty of Cohosting Soccer World Cup With ROK

OW0405040696 Tokyo KYODO in English
0350 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, May 4 KYODO — Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said Friday [3 May] it would be difficult for Japan and South Korea to co-host the 2002 World Cup soccer finals.

"FIFA [Federation of International Football Associations] rules stipulate a (single) country host it," Ikeda said in remarks to a group of Japanese reporters traveling with him on his three-day visit to Turkey that began Thursday.

"The story will be different if FIFA changes its rules, and it's a matter FIFA should deal with," Ikeda said.

Ikeda was asked for comment on remarks by South Korean Prime Minister Yi Su-song on Friday that it may be acceptable to South Korea to co-host the World Cup finals with Japan.

Ikeda said he will support Japanese efforts to host the World Cup finals, but denied any intention to use political clout.

"It would be stupid if Japan and South Korea act on the issue at political levels. Politics should not go beyond (the FIFA discussion)," he said.

Ikeda arrived in Turkey on the third and last leg of a three-nation tour that took him to Belgium and South Africa.

Japan: Foreign Minister Ikeda Returns Home

OW0505073896 Tokyo KYODO in English
0726 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 5 KYODO — Foreign minister Yukihiko Ikeda returned home Sunday [5 May] after attending meetings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the European Union (EU) ministerial conference in Brussels.

Ikeda became the first Japanese foreign minister to visit South Africa since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two nations in 1992, and talked

with South African President Nelson Mandela while attending the UNCTAD general meeting.

Ikeda also met with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Foreign Minister Emre Gonensay in Ankara.

Japan: Industry Sources Note America Online Set To Enter Market

OW0405110696 Tokyo KYODO in English
1023 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 4 KYODO — America Online Inc., the largest commercial on-line personal computer (PC) communication service company in the United States, is planning to team up with Mitsui and Co. to enter the Japanese market by the end of this year, industry sources told KYODO news on Saturday [4 May].

A formal agreement will be signed in the near future by the presidents of the two companies, they said.

America Online will set up a joint-venture company with the major Japanese trading house and offer such communication services in Japanese giving households access to the Internet, the sources said.

America Online expects to see more than one million subscriptions in Japan over the next two years, they said.

They said the company should see steady demand in Japan in view of the widespread use of household PCs, particularly within the last year. Subscription at Japanese computer telecom companies Nifty-Serve and PC-Van each stands around 1.5 million.

America Online has enjoyed rapid growth, with about 5 million people in the U.S. currently using its service, higher than the subscription levels at its U.S. rivals such as CompuServe Inc. and Prodigy Services Co. The company is hoping eventually to increase the number to 10 million.

It already entered the European PC communication market by linking up with German media giant Bertelsmann Ag last year, and has plans to expand further into India and Australia, according to industry sources.

Competition is expected to intensify in the Japanese PC communication service market among domestic and foreign service providers because Japan's Justsystem Corp., known as the manufacturer of the Ichitaro Japanese-language word processing software, is poised to enter the market.

Japan: Hashimoto Pledges To Promote Administrative Reform

OW0205125296 Tokyo KYODO in English
1150 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 2 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto pledged Thursday [2 May] to promote administrative reform under his leadership, telling a task force of his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to come up with concrete themes on the issue, LDP officials said.

Hashimoto told a meeting of senior members of the LDP administrative reform promotion task force that he is determined to take the offensive and absorb himself more in promoting administrative reform.

Hashimoto gave his approval to the task force's basic policy in dealing with reform on such items as the streamlining of ministries and agencies, reconstruction of the debt-ridden state finances, and decentralization.

The task force agreed in principle to compile an interim report on reform within the current Diet session ending June 19, the officials said.

By moving ahead with administrative reform, the LDP, a dominant partner in the three-party ruling coalition, is aiming at supporting the Hashimoto cabinet in facing the next general election, LDP sources said.

Hashimoto has judged that a cut in state budget expenditures through such reform is necessary to gain public understanding for hiking the consumption tax to 5% from the current 3% starting in April 1997, the sources said.

The LDP forms the coalition with the Social Democratic Party, led by former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, and New Party Sakigake, headed by former Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura.

Japan: Takemura Proposes Raising Consumption Tax

OW0505133596 Tokyo KYODO in English
1307 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 5 KYODO — Former Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, in a magazine article to be published Friday (10 May), proposes raising the consumption tax rate to 8-12 percent from fiscal 2001 as a way to balance the national budget.

In the June issue of the monthly CHUO KORON, Takemura says the tax hike should be implemented on condition of a 5 percent across-the-board cut in government outlays and the setting aside of revenues from the tax for welfare purposes.

The consumption tax rate is now set at 3 percent and is to be raised to 5 percent in fiscal 1997.

Takemura, chief of New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], part of the tripartite ruling coalition, also proposes slashing the number of parliamentarians to 300 from the current 511 for the House of Representatives, and 150 from the current 252 for the House of Councillors to save government expenditures.

Takemura's proposal comes against the backdrop of 321 trillion yen in outstanding long-term government debts.

Takemura says the debts must be wiped out in three stages under a five-year program from fiscal 1997 — economic deregulation and administrative reforms at the first stage, a 5 percent cut in government spending and a one trillion yen cut in social security costs at the second stage and the tax hike at the third stage.

Ichiro Ozawa, chief of the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), has already proposed raising the consumption tax rate to 10 percent in 2005 in a package with a 50 percent cut in income and residential taxes.

Takemura says Ozawa's proposed tax hike itself can be appreciated but as a whole his proposal does not pay due attention to how to balance the budget.

Japan: Defense Research Center Activities Outlined for FY96

OW0605075096 Tokyo DRC in Japanese May 96
p 21

[Unattributed article]

[FBIS Translated Text] Council Meeting 7 March (Thursday)

Discussed selection of Defense Research Center [DRC] executives.

Discussed approving FY1995 supplementary budget.

Discussed approving FY1996 activities plan and budget.

Standing Board of Directors Meeting 8 March (Friday)

Discussed election of DRC chairman, director general, and senior executive director.

Discussed election of council members.

Discussed approving FY1995 supplementary budget.

Discussed approving FY1996 activities plan and budget.

Discussed designating research council members.

FY1996 Activities Plan (Outline)**1) Support for Basic Research**

Announce through research, articles, and other means from a defense expert standpoint regarding the comprehensive security strategy (including technology strategy) that our nation should take.

2) Conducting Overseas Research and Surveys

Conduct research and surveys, information exchange related to the international environment for our nation, the military situation, and technology developments.

3) Gathering, Analyzing Basic Data, Materials Related to Defense

Basic documents related to our nation's confidence-building measures, defense technology, and other security issues.

4) Carrying Out Commissioned Surveys and Research

Promote surveys and research commissioned by related government ministries and agencies consistent with this Foundation's goals.

5) Conducting Public Relations, Information Activities

Publish our research yearbook, journal DRC, and newsletters. Host research forums, presentations, roundtable discussions, international conferences. Take in interns from government agencies and elsewhere. Publicize regarding policies to support the defense industry.

DRC Members (in order of Japanese alphabet)**Chairman**

Ko Maruyama

Director General

Tsuneo Murai

Senior Executive Director

Naruhiko Ueda

Directors

Takashi Kitaoka

Kiichi Saeki

Hajime Sakuma

Fumio Sato

Akira Shioda

Teruo Suzuki

Tadahiro Sekimoto

Tetsu Hara

Supervisors

Kan Tsuji

Hidekazu Mochizuki

Council Members April - June 1996 (Additions)

Hisato Toyama

Akira Tomizawa

Research Committee Members April 1996 - June 1997

Hiroyasu Eguchi

Shoshi Fujimoto

Akiji Yoshida

Interns (Defense Agency) April 1996 - March 1997**Captain Susumu Morioka, Ground Self-Defense Force Visitors**

Major General Lai and three others from the Taiwan Army; Department Director R. Hagengruber and two others from Sandia National Laboratory; Councilor Y.I. Smirnov, Embassy of the Russia Federation, Tokyo.

Japan: JADI BOD Meeting, ASDF Chief of Staff's Speech Reported

OW0605075596 Tokyo GEKKAN JADI in Japanese May 96 p 77

[Unattributed article in the "Association Events" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the afternoon of 14 March (Thursday), the third board of directors [BOD] meeting of the fiscal year [FY1995] was held at the Grand Hill Ichigaya.

At the BOD meeting, discussion took place regarding the proposal on new members joining the Japan Association of Defense Industry [JADI]. The proposal was adopted unanimously.

Recognized for entry into JADI from the beginning of the new fiscal year [FY1996] were two corporations as full members and one corporation as a supporting member. They are as follows:

Full Membership

Kanto Aircraft Instrument Co., Ltd.

Marine United Co., Ltd.

Supporting Membership

Ishikawajima Seimitsu Junzo K.K.

Following the BOD meeting was JADI's second forum of the fiscal year. The invited speaker was [then] Air Self-Defense Force [ASDF] Chief of Staff Shigeru Sugiyama.

Chief of Staff Sugiyama's talk was extremely valuable in terms of future management of the defense equipment industry. The meeting ended with JADI's chairman and all others in attendance highly impressed.

Japan: Liaison Committee Meets on JADI's FY96 Schedule

OW0605075696 Tokyo GEKKAN JADI in Japanese
May 96 p 77

[Unattributed article in the "Association Events" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the afternoon of 19 March (Tuesday), the Japan Association of Defense Industry [JADI] operations liaison committee met to consider and coordinate on issues related to the first Board of Directors [BOD] meeting of FY1996, scheduled for the afternoon of 10 May (Friday), and the JADI general meeting slated for 27 May.

Japan: Top Shinshinto Official Hints at Possible Party Breakup

OW0405110896 Tokyo KYODO in English
0954 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 4 KYODO — A top policy-maker of the main opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) hinted that he cannot rule out the possibility of the party breaking up over an internal dispute over Japan's collective defense.

Kazuo Aichi, chairman of the party's Policy Research Council, said in an interview, "I cannot say no for sure" to Shinshinto's potential breakup.

Aichi, who briefly served as defense minister, said the collective defense debate pits individual politicians' philosophies against each other, adding that the rival Liberal Democratic Party is also divided on the matter.

He suggested that in certain extreme circumstances the pacifist war-renouncing constitution has to be revised as lawmakers try to judge how best to protect the Japanese people's lives and assets for the sake of the state and the citizens.

Asked about the deployment of Japanese troops abroad to become an "ordinary country," as Shinshinto leader

Ichiro Ozawa has advocated, Aichi said, "Japan should not" deploy its self-defense forces abroad.

"That is not Japan's role," he said. "The United States is not asking Japan to make (such) military contributions."

Japan: Opposition Party's Ichiro Ozawa's Popularity Plummets

962B0045A Tokyo SHUKAN BUNSHUN in Japanese
15 Feb 96 pp 35-37

[Unattributed article: "Hata Faction Forms Koshikai While Close Ally Ichikawa Revolts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Ichiro Ozawa" of Nagata-cho has suffered a major drop in popularity which continues to decline. Two of his once close allies both embarked on the establishment of new subfactions, and his last hope is to thrust himself into election activities, which he likes better than food. The mind of a "strong-willed person," flustered by urgent problems, is currently "more concerned with elections than the housing loan companies [jusen] issue," meaning that hard-working tax payers are being subjected to extreme contempt.

It was Friday 2 February when the transportation network of the Japanese archipelago was paralyzed by a snow storm. I bumped into a junior Diet member of the New Frontier Party (NFP) in front of the entrance to the Diet Members' Office Building in Nagata-cho.

He told me the snow had caused a suspension of all air flights and that he was going to take seven hours in transferring from train to train to reach his constituency.

He said, "When I think of the elections, I must go back to my constituency on weekends, regardless of what happens."

As he confirmed that no one else was standing nearby, he wore a scornful expression and added, "I can't understand the executive branch. They refused to participate in the Diet deliberations, despite the fact that public anger had reached new heights because of the proposed fiscal funding of 685 billion yen to provide relief in response to the jusen issue. We are not speaking of the old Socialist Party, and such actions are not appropriate for a responsible opposition party."

"Supporters in my constituency have placed several telephone calls to me, saying, 'Why is it that they don't engage in an open and aboveboard debate? Are they really serious about their roles as Dietmen?' The question is, what can I say when I reach my constituents...?"

Public attention is focused on the Diet engaged in a debate on the jusen issue because of the confrontation

between Ozawa and Hashimoto. Logically, before the budget deliberations were launched, it was thought that the NFP, led by Ichiro Ozawa, would engage in a major offensive.

However, despite the sounding of the charge ahead gun volley, the NFP has failed to present a unified stand. Not only have they failed to make a "scapegoat" out of the rival Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), as predicted by a close associate of Ozawa, but quickly stumbled during the opening session.

A political reporter comments, "Lack of preparations resulted in a situation where the party had failed to establish a consensus until just before the opening of the Budget Committee sessions. Because of that situation, President Ozawa, concerning the important matter of using public funds, stated during a television interview, 'We should make more extended use of such funds' and created a major controversy."

A political reporter states, "Ultimately, the NFP did not concur with the use of tax revenues, and decided to demand a cut in the budget for liquidation of *jusen*, but their behavior exposed the superficiality of their efforts on the issue."

The NFP disgraced itself even on Diet policy affairs.

Under the new Ozawa organization, former Minister of Education Takeo Nishioka was appointed Diet Affairs Committee chairman. He was placed in charge of managing the NFP response to the *jusen* during Diet deliberations, but according to one veteran LDP Dietman, he is of a nature that "Once he launches himself on a project, no one can stop him." He plunges forward unilaterally.

A reporter in charge of covering the NFP said, "There was a violent confrontation between Nishioka, who attempted to persist in an unyielding position, and Takeshi Noda and Shozo Kusakawa, directors of the Budget Committee, who stressed that the government should be cornered as part of the deliberations. Nishioka chose to forcibly impose his approach on the situation."

First, he used as an excuse the failure to reveal the basis for calculating the fiscal expenditures to reject commencement of deliberations. Deliberations did commence one day late on 30 January, but all of the committee members expressed dissatisfaction with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's reply during the first day's summary question-and-answer session and engaged themselves in the "crude tactic" of physically withdrawing from the hearings in mid-session.

The NFP shifted to a street campaign to publicize its position, but the ruling party and Communist Party

disregarded the move. The deliberations proceeded without the NFP.

That caused the NFP to become concerned. Not only did the stay-away tactic fail to elicit any noticeable support, but according to a middle-ranking NFP Diet member, "No one would approach the NFP in an effort to resolve the standoff."

This was Nishioka's first exposure to duties in the Diet policy affairs and he has no ties with legislators of LDP Diet policy affairs. He rejected Diet deliberations in a spirited manner, but he had no idea as to the ultimate outcome.

Ultimately, in the end, Policy Research Council Chairman Kozo Watanabe, a Diet policy affairs *zoku* (a group of Diet members who exercise in a particular field policy making expertise and contacts generally acquired through services as chairman or vice chairman of the appropriate party policy deliberation committee) negotiated with LDP Diet Policy Affairs Committee Chairman Kenzo Muraoka behind the scenes. The NFP withdrew itself from the deliberation rejection position and joined the deliberations on 5 February.

The LDP, led by the Prime Minister's Residence duo comprising Prime Minister Hashimoto and Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama, reveled triumphantly over the erratic behavior by the NFP. The LDP has faced the brunt of adverse public opinion and is agonized by the pitfalls of the *jusen* issue, but when it comes to the NFP, it displays a calm attitude in that "the NFP is not as dynamic as it sounds."

A Diet member, who served as a cabinet officer as a member of the former Obuchi faction, comments, "You might say that the current Prime Minister Hashimoto was the minister of finance who imposed gross loan ceilings on banks which was the root cause of the *jusen* issue, but the prime minister at that time was Toshiki Kaifu. On top of that, the party triumvirates who sustained the Kaifu cabinet; i.e., Secretary General Ozawa, Executive Council Chairman Nishioka, and Chairman Mutsuki Kato of Policy Affairs Research Council are all currently members of the NFP. They say the main deliberations in the Budget Committee are yet to take place, but there is no way the NFP can take the offensive."

As he watched President Ozawa speak from a campaign car, one the LDP triumvirates, asserted, "Ozawa himself should know better than anyone else that it is essential that public funds be injected into the liquidation of the *jusen*. But he placed himself in a pathetic situation in that he took the illogical approach of opposing the use of

public funds. After becoming the head of NFP, Ozawa ceased to be himself."

A member of a political affairs news reporter team observes, "I was disappointed when I saw Ozawa play the role of sycophant in his relationships with the public. His sole appeal was his ability to persist with policies which he advocated without mincing words, but he has been unable to conduct himself in such a manner after becoming the chief of the party. And, the necessity for him to play the role of party leader has exposed a variety of contradictions.

"As an example, all of his confidants have alienated themselves from him and there is no one in the party who can manage internal party affairs in his behalf. As a reward for being helpful during the party leader elections, Takashi Yonezawa was appointed secretary general and Nishioka was appointed Diet Affairs Committee chairperson, but both are totally inept.

"Now that he has become party leader, he cannot exercise his "strong-willed" methods, which is his strong point. He is unable to control the internal activities of the party and the members go their disparate ways."

"Ichiro Ozawa's" popularity has dropped sharply and continues to decline. One NFP official said, "Ichiro Ozawa is a Dracula."

When he is holed up in dark chambers behind the scenes, he is dreadfully frightening, but when he is in the open, he is just an ordinary old man....

The anti-Ozawa forces are gaining in strength on a daily basis. On 22 January, 57 members of the Tsutomu Hata group announced their existence and on 1 February, the group "matured" into the policy study group called "Koshikai." Membership has grown and now stands at 69 or one-third of the 226 Diet membership of the NFP.

Maneuverings by Soka Gakkai membership to alienate themselves from Ozawa

Former Minister of Home Affairs Hajime Ishii, a core member of the NFP, reveals, "Basically, the NFP is a menagerie of odd elements and embraces a variety of opinions. They came to the conclusion that it would be acceptable to build a force within the party in the name of a study group. Taking such an approach would be democratic and would stimulate activity.

"Needless to say, some say they are concerned about party leader Ozawa's high-handed methods. They were supposed to provide for openness in the management of the party, but one of President Ozawa's confidants suddenly tried to effect a mass resignation of Diet

members. It is a fact that such events inspired an increase in group membership."

Each member is charged monthly group dues of \$100 and an office was established in the Hotel New Otani where a study meeting is held on Thursday of each week. According to Dietman Shigefumi Matsuzawa, "The purpose is to exchange information, study policies, and coordinate election affairs," but the organization is backdropped by the stirring sentiment that "we will not condone arbitrary decisions and actions."

Former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, foremost leader of the anti-Ozawa movement, who has assumed the position of senior representative of the NFP along with Hata, declares, "We will monitor the executive branch as an opposition party within an opposition party."

A reporter in charge of covering the NFP states, "Ozawa had assumed that the group would attract less than 50. Reports existed that official launching of the group may see a drop in prospective membership to about 40. But, when the official announcement was made the figure, instead, had risen to 69. The situation signals a decisive break and the inability to restore normal relations."

A "secret feud" raged between the Ozawa and Hata camps.

First, Ozawa confidants tried to persuade Hata group Diet members to absent themselves from the study group meetings. Secretary General Yonezawa advised a core member of the study group, former Economic Planning Agency Director General Hajime Funada to "restrain" himself, but Funada disregarded the advice.

According to an NFP source, "When the first group meeting was held on the 22d, which was the opening day of the Diet sessions, the NFP made a major issue out of House of Representative Chairperson Takako Doi's statement of "opposition to the small electoral district," substantially delaying the start of the main session.

According to an NFP source, "In reality, the machinations were part of the Ozawa executive branch moves to prolong Diet proceedings and harass the Hata faction by preventing it from holding its group meeting on schedule."

On the evening of the 23d, the following day, the first-year Dietmen of the NFP held a New Year's party at the popular tavern "Banya" in the Akasaka district of Tokyo. At this gathering, both the Ozawa and Hata factions enjoyed the festivities on a cordial basis.

However, some of the newspapers wrote, "Ozawa faction joins first-year Dietmen-centered study group

session," resulting in a subsequent break between the two factions.

The above-quoted NFP source reveals, "First-year Dietman Taiichiro Nishikawa, who is a 53-year-old confidant of Ozawa, tried to establish an Ozawa faction in opposition to the Hata faction. However, he suspended his efforts midway because of the fear of deepening the existing fragmentation."

Ultimately, the Ozawa camp condoned the existence of the Hata faction. As a countermeasure, a decision was made to hold a "First Wednesday Meeting" once a month from 7 February in the party president's office to promote intraparty activities.

However, such action would prove to be wholly inadequate in filling the chasm between the groups. As soon as the Koshikai was launched, Funada quickly proceeded to announce on television, "The situation may even lead to a departure of the group from the party." Speculation even extended to talk of a split developing in the NFP.

Even more "serious" signs began to appear.

A Nagata-cho source comments, "The former Komeito, i.e., the Soka Gakkai movement, warrants attention. First, former Komeito Secretary General Yuichi Ichikawa, who dissolved the "Ozawa-Ichikawa duo," has suddenly become active. He's energized by the idea of gathering former Komeito members after the closing of the regular Diet session and establishing a new study group.

Ichikawa, who was miffed at being relieved of key assignments, could hardly attempt to establish a study group without some signal from the Soka Gakkai. The regional Komeito elements, which were supposed to merge with the NFP, have suspended their final move until next year. Reportedly, the intended move could lead to the Soka Gakkai's parting of ways with Ozawa."

As far as the Soka Gakkai is concerned, as long as it entrusts its fate with President Ozawa, it runs the risk of being threatened by the LDP's "Summon Ikeda" strategy. Basically, the Soka Gakkai in the past has sought a balanced approach through an LDP-Komeito-Social Democratic Party affiliation and it would not be strange for it to retrace a similar approach."

The Ozawa blockade is being tightened.

A look at the LDP reveals movements of the following nature.

A reporter in charge of covering the LDP says, "The LDP was talking avidly of submitting draft legislation on a basic law to separate politics and religion and launch a thorough attack on the Soka Gakkai as soon as

the budget deliberations were completed, but recently, the former Obuchi faction has played a central role in toning down such talk. Moreover, in his policy speech, Prime Minister Hashimoto did not mention the political-religious issue although it was supposed to be one of this Diet session's two major themes."

An LDP source continues, "Reportedly, Soka Gakkai Chairman Einosuke Akitani and Deputy Chairman Isao Nozaki tried to contact former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who has had close ties with the Soka Gakkai for some time. One report has it that Takeshita also met with Ichikawa...."

Secret Election Analysis Covered at Koshikai Meeting

If the expectations of the Soka Gakkai and LDP coincide, the road for survival by President Ozawa will be cut off.

Masaya Ito, political commentator, remarks, "It would not be an exaggeration to say that Ozawa faces his most critical crisis of his political career. Presently, elections serve as a restraint against fragmentation, but once the elections are over, the outcome could result in the disintegration of the NFP."

A member of the Koshikai states, "We organized this group on the anti-Ozawa theme, but we are not of a monolithic nature. There are some who would once again make Hosokawa a leader, some who favor a two-way conservative alliance, and some who seek a third force.

"The group title of Koshikai was chosen after Sanae Takaichi screened about 30 candidate titles and Hosokawa consulted a calligrapher. During the consultation, the calligrapher said, this is a good name, but it will be 'evanescent,' to which Hosokawa replied, 'We have no intention of making it a long-lasting group.' (Laugh)

"However, all group members uniformly feel they would like to win in any election and become a part of the ruling party. Thus, if the NFP should win an independent majority in an election, they would not bolt the party.

"However, if the party faces defeat in an election, disintegration will be unavoidable. No one wishes to remain with Ozawa as part of an opposition party."

In actuality, the first topic "studied" in the initial meeting of the Koshikai was election forecasts. According to an attendee of that meeting, former Minister of Home Affairs Ishii gave an orientation on a secret election analysis to members attending the meeting.

"The SHUKAN BUNSHUN speaks of an overwhelming victory by the LDP, but there is no such thing. A detailed analysis of available data shows that the LDP now has 213 seats, while the NFP has 205 seats, a very close count. If the NFP could post the right candidates, they could win as many as 30 seats in the small-electoral districts and 20 seats in the proportional representation districts. If things go well, the NFP can win a total of 255 seats and control an independent majority."

On the other hand, the question is, what is going through the mind of President Ozawa who has been isolated from many of his party members?

Former National Land Agency Director General Moriyoshi Sato, an Ozawa confidant, states, "Ozawa has said, After becoming party president, 'I have been relieved of my chores as stage manipulator, have spare time, and lead a fulfilling life.' He visited Saitama Prefecture on 1 and 2 February and made street-corner speeches in support of the party candidate for the mayoral election campaign in Ageo City."

On the 3d, he returned to his birthplace in Iwate Prefecture and attended his mother Michi's first annual memorial service. He said, "My job is to conduct a pilgrimage of the entire nation," and swore before his mother's grave that he would achieve victory in the general elections.

His mind is currently preoccupied by "elections rather than the jusen issue." If things proceed on their current course, "Ichiro Ozawa" will not regain his popularity!

North Korea

DPRK Daily Notes U.S. 'Responsibility' for Korean Peace

SK0405051996 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0404 GMT 4 May 96

["The United States Cannot Evade Responsibility for Ensuring Peace on Korean Peninsula" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today carries an article declaring that the United States cannot evade the responsibility for ensuring peace on the Korean peninsula.

Today the Korean peninsula is on a serious crossroad of war or peace, the author of the article says, and goes on:

Ignition of war on the Korean peninsula is unavoidable if the touch-and-go situation is not eased. But there are no legal and institutional devices to deter the outbreak of that event beforehand on the peninsula. The Korean armistice system has become totally impotent owing to

the intentional acts of the United States and the South Korean puppets to destroy it.

The only effective measure to make up for the vacuum which threatens peace on the Korean peninsula and turn the ceasefire into a durable peace is to establish a new security system. This can be realized only with the establishment of a new peace mechanism. Our stand is to turn the useless, old armistice system into a new peace mechanism as soon as possible. The DPRK's proposal to conclude a tentative agreement which will take the place of the armistice agreement till the signing of a complete peace agreement takes into consideration the U.S. policy toward Korea and the level of the DPRK-U.S. relations.

The United States is the real party to the security of South Korea as it holds the military control there. The United States officially says that it bears responsibility for the "security" of South Korea. Therefore, the matter of ensuring a durable peace on the Korean peninsula can be discussed and settled only between the DPRK and the United States, the parties directly responsible for it. There is no need and reason for anyone else to take part in it. If a third party is allowed to be involved in it, there will be nothing but complexity. So, anyone else would be well-advised not to put his nose into it.

The establishment of a new peace mechanism will greatly contribute to the removal of the relations of war between the DPRK and the United States, improvement of the relations between them and development of the sound international relations.

The United States should act with reason, feeling due responsibility for having made the present armistice system impotent and created a dangerous vacuum in security and leading the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

DPRK Paper Decries U.S. Pursuit of 'Policy of Strength'

SK0605033996 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0328 GMT 6 May 96

["U.S. Policy of Strength Remains Unchanged" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA) — If the U.S. warhawks stick to the road of aggression and war contrary to the aspiration of the world people for peace, people's voices denouncing it will be lifted up and the United States will be branded more strikingly as the enemy of peace by the world, stressed a NODONG SINMUN article Sunday laying bare the policy of strength pursued constantly by the United States.

The article says:

The U.S. warhawks have decided to invest 493 million dollars in manufacturing "B-2", a new-type warplane "Stealth", in the current fiscal year.

Some time ago, the United States worked out and published with Israel a joint program to develop an interceptor ballistic missile defence system, which reflects the policy of strength.

After the end of cold war, the United States is making armed interventions openly against independent countries under the pretext of "solution of disputes" and "coordination of crisis".

It persistently pursues the policy of strength in the Asia-Pacific region.

With 100,000 U.S. forces present in the region constantly, it is tightening the U.S.-Japan-South Korea triangular military alliance envisaging the offensive against the DPRK and other Asian nations.

The "Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security" announced recently is aimed at it, too.

The reason why the United States does not accede to the DPRK's new proposal for establishment of peace-keeping mechanism is that it has not abandoned the attempt to stifle the DPRK by force of strength.

Because of the policy of strength pursued by the United States in all parts of the world, the cause of humankind for peace is seriously threatened.

To dominate and control other countries with the strength is a mode of thinking unfit for the time.

The United States must refrain from doing acts going against the time but meet the demand of the people for peace.

DPRK: KCNA Denounces 1-2 May Military Activity in Frontline Area

*SK0405040096 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0343 GMT 4 May 96*

["Military Exercise in Frontline Area" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets held a provocative military exercise and fired bullets and shells in the frontline area, military sources said.

On May 1, they overtly drove 42 tanks, some 70 armored vehicles, about 50 155-mm and 105-mm self-propelled artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers along a road near the demarcation line in Paju county in

the western sector of the front, agitating for confrontation.

On May 2, 105-mm artillery pieces of the puppet army deployed at positions in Chorwon county, South Korean Kangwon Province, and puppet army soldiers on the frontline area in Yonchon county, Kyonggi Province, fired more than 920 bullets and shells.

The Kim Yong-sam fascist clique must act with discretion, mindful that the racket for confrontation and war is no way out and will result in their own destruction.

DPRK: Operation 5027 Denounced as ROK-U.S. 'War Provocation'

*SK0405144896 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
0853 GMT 4 May 96*

[NODONG SINMUN 4 May commentary: "An Open-Phase Scheme for War Provocation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The South Korean rulers, who have created a critical danger of war on the Korean peninsula, are making very alarming moves. The puppet military recently disclosed to the public through the press the so-called Five-Stage Operation 5027, a war provocation plan for northward invasion.

In this regard, the South Korean paper CHOSON ILBO reported that the puppet Defense Ministry and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Headquarters have mapped out multifarious measures to cope with the prevailing situation and have set out about reexamining the [word indistinct] operation plan, and it also reported in detail on the content of the operation plan.

According to the report, in the first stage of the operation, U.S. combat forces will be reinforced and rapid deployment deterrent forces will be deployed on the Korean peninsula under the pretext of preventing war. In the second stage, a huge reinforcement force, including 500,000 U.S. troops, will be dispatched to the Korean peninsula within 90 days after the outbreak of war. In the third stage, the forces will cross the frontline, march to the North, and hold large-scale landing operations. Therefore, the operation plan is shot through with a provocative and aggressive tendency.

The puppets say the operation plan was drafted years ago and was complemented later. The South Korean ruling forces mapped out with the United States a plan for war against the North and reported it through a newspaper; this shows their scheme to provoke a war has reached an undisguised phase, and we cannot look upon this situation with folded arms [kudurui chonjaeng tobal ummoga konggaejogin tangyee inurottanun kosul poyojunun kosuroso susubanggwan halsuomnun saraeida].

Moreover, we cannot help but view seriously the fact that they released to the public the operation plan for northward invasion at a time when it has begun to be implemented. The South Korean puppets have turned the Demilitarized Zone and the Military Demarcation Line into a starting position for northward invasion and are ceaselessly conducting war adventures [chonjaeng mohom] against our Republic, mobilizing huge armed forces. This can be seen only on the eve of war.

Keeping in step with the puppets, the U.S. military forces deployed a combat corps of aircraft carriers around the Korean peninsula early this year, and the U.S. Pacific Headquarters is also moving to dispatch hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops to South Korea. In addition, the modernization of the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea and the reinforcement of the puppet army is being accelerated. This clearly shows that the Five-Stage Operation 5027 has entered an implementation stage [sirhaeng tangye].

Now it has become clear why the South Korean puppets have unilaterally broken the Armistice Agreement to pursue confrontation and war. It was no accident that they blocked and froze North-South dialogue, which had been held even during the military dictatorial regime of the Sixth Republic, or that they were dead set against us, agitating their sorrowful fellow countrymen at the time we suffered misfortune.

The United States and the puppet Kim Yong-sam clique are talking about peace and reunification, but actually they are pursuing war and reunification by force of arms. The Five-Stage Operation 5027 is not merely a war plan, but a detailed program for reunification by force of arms. This is proved by the fact that the plan reads the reunification of the Korean peninsula will be realized under their leadership after practicing attack operations for northward invasion.

At a time when the world pursues detente and peace and the entire nation earnestly desires peace and the country's peaceful reunification, they are planning a war that will bring national ruin. What a vicious nation-seller and warmonger group they are!

The justness of the self-defensive measures we recently took while warning against the graveness of the situation on the Korean peninsula is proven by today's reality, in which there are no grounds for controversy about where the danger of war on the Korean peninsula is coming from, and in which the question is not whether a war will take place, but when a war will break out [chonjaengi ironagennunga malgennunga hanungosi munjega anira kusijomi onjeinga hanungosi munjero toegoinnun onurui hyonsil].

As they have released to the public their plan for northward invasion, the Kim Yong-sam group will no longer be able to talk about dialogue and reunification and will be branded by history and posterity as heinous traitors who desperately tried to plunge the nation into a nuclear disaster in collusion with outside forces.

At a severe and grave time today, when the war provocation scheme by the United States and the South Korean puppet clique has reached an undisguised phase, and when the only action that remains is the actual sound of gunfire, we cannot help but take due countermeasures [mugukkwa namjosen koeroedodangui chongjaeng tobal ummoga konggaejogin tangyee irugo ije mullijok chongsongmani namainnun chunomhago omjunghan sijomeso urinun kue ung danghan taegungchaegul kangguhaji anulsu opta].

If the members of the Kim Il-song ring place too much confidence in themselves and think they can hurt us, they are truly mistaken. We also have the same fire roll as the puppets have. Our people and People's Army have the revolutionary trait of handling with fire those who provoke our Republic, giving them a thousand-fold punishment.

The United States and the South Korean puppets should immediately cancel the aggressive war provocation plan. If they continuously try to provoke a war despite our warning, our people and People's Army will defeat the aggressors with one blow and root out the source of war from the Korean peninsula.

DPRK: ROK, U.S. Said Planning Reunification 'by Force of Arms'

SK0405042796 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0410 GMT 4 May 96

["Undisguised Plan of War" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA)* — The South Korean puppet military recently opened "Five-Stage Operation 5027," a plan of war against the North, to the public through press media.

The operation plan is provocative and aggressive. For instance, U.S. combat forces will be reinforced and quick deployment deterrent forces will be deployed on the Korean Peninsula for "prevention of war" in the first stage of the operation; huge reinforcement forces including 500,000 U.S. troops will be dispatched to the Korean Peninsula within 90 days after the outbreak of war in the second stage; and the forces will cross the frontline, march North and hold large-scale landing operations in the third stage.

NODONG SINMUN says in a signed commentary today:

The fact that the present rulers of South Korea manipulated the press media to report about the war plan against the North they mapped up with the United States shows that their scheme to provoke war has reached an undisguised stage. This can never be overlooked.

The South Korean puppets have turned the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line into a starting position for invasion of the North and are ceaselessly making military adventures with huge Armed Forces against the North. This is reminiscent of the eve of war.

The "Five-Stage Operation 5027" is not merely a war plan but a detailed program for unification by force of arms.

As the Kim Yong-sam group opened to the public their war plan against the North, they will never be entitled to talk about "dialogue" and "unification" again and will be branded by history and posterity as heinous traitors who tried hard to plunge the nation into nuclear scourge in collusion with outside forces.

They are mistaken if they overestimate themselves and think they can hurt the North. We also have means of war.

If they continuously try to unleash a war despite our warning, our people and people's army will defeat the aggressors at one blow and uproot the source of war on the Korean Peninsula.

A news analyst of MINJU CHOSON warns that the bellicose elements of the United States and the South Korean puppets must not mistake the resolute position of the Korean people and people's army but immediately cancel the plan for war of aggression.

DPRK: KCNA Reports U.S. Expanding Military Base in Japan

*SK0605110696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1053 GMT 6 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA) — A recent issue of the Japanese ASAHI SHIMBUN reported that the United States and Japan are expanding a U.S. military base in Iwakuni of Japan to cope with a "crisis" on the Korean peninsula.

When the expansion project is completed, a 50,000-ton vessel can anchor on the base. And, in the "event of emergency", a carrier and large transport ships will be able to enter the port of the base and U.S.-Based large transport planes land on it, so it will be used for transportation and sortie.

The paper revealed that an organ of the U.S. Marine Corps studied an operation simulating a "crisis" on the

Korean peninsula on the map. The operation provides that Iwakuni-based aircraft make air raids directly on the east coast of the Korean peninsula to support landing operations of infantry units, the paper noted.

Last year, U.S. fighters including "FA-18" and "Harrier" took off from the Iwakuni base to frequently fly to Pohang and other places of South Korea. The Iwakuni base has been turning into a more practical one for action, said the paper.

In the "event of emergency", the base will be used along with the military bases in Okinawa and Sasebo and it is very likely that the role of the base will be boosted in future, the paper added.

DPRK: April's KEDO Oil Shipments Arrive as Scheduled

SK0305122596 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States and the U.S.-led Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) [migukkwa migugi chudohanun choson pando energi kaebalkigu kedonun] have been delivering heavy oil to the DPRK as scheduled under the framework agreement between the DPRK and the United States.

Ships carrying 44,000 tons of oil for April this year arrived in Sonbong and Chongjin Ports on 22 and 29 April.

Earlier, 150,000 tons of heavy oil were delivered to the DPRK from October 1994 to October 1995 and 126,000 tons from November 1995 to March this year.

A total of 320,000 tons have been shipped to the DPRK.

According to the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement, the United States and the KEDO are obliged to deliver 500,000 tons of heavy oil to our country every year from November last year. [chinanhae sibirwolbuto apuro maehae osimmantonui chungyurul urinarae chegonghage toemnida]

The heavy oil that has been delivered is being used in electricity and heat generation. [nabiptoen chungyunun chongi mit yol saengsane ssuigo issurnida]

**DPRK: Radio Denounces Nuclear Development
'Maneuvers' by ROK**

SK0505104396 *Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean*
0745 GMT 3 May 96

[Unattributed talk: "The South Korean Puppets' Dangerous Nuclear Development Maneuvers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The world is currently advancing toward preventing the proliferation of nuclear arms to ultimately abolish them by directing great attention to resolving the nuclear safety issue.

However, the Kim Yong-sam group in South Korea, ignoring this trend of the time, is running amok to reduce South Korea to a nuclear powder keg.

The Kim Yong-sam group ignored the trend of the time in which nuclear reactors with less economic efficiency have been eliminated and replaced with more advanced nuclear reactors. It is frantically running wild to develop heavy-water reactors that are directly linked to the development of nuclear weapons.

Herein lies the rascals' vicious intention to accelerate their nuclear armaments and inflict nuclear calamities on our people by building a material resource base from which they can extract nuclear fuel at any time.

A heavy-water reactor can produce three times more plutonium than a light-water reactor. It is a fact known to the entire world that plutonium is the basic material for nuclear fuel. Nevertheless, the puppet Kim Yong-sam talked gibberish by saying that the development of a heavy-water reactor is intended for what they called commercial purposes. However, this is indeed a lie.

If the Kim Yong-sam group is to pursue commercial purposes, a nuclear reactor with a high economic value should be selected. It is not a secret that the South Korean puppets have already worked out a production system linked to nuclear arms production.

The South Korean puppets have already built in Wolsong a CANDU-type heavy-water reactor imported from Canada, and began operating it in 1983. It is a fact already made public that this is a nuclear reactor directly linked to nuclear development.

The puppets have so far produced plutonium with which they can build more than 380 nuclear bombs. Not satisfied with this, the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique is going to build three more heavy-water reactors. Even aside from this, our people are under constant nuclear threat because of the more than 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea.

The current joint denuclearization declaration was adopted and has been implemented between North and South Korea, and the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement designed to solve the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula is being implemented.

In particular, we proposed concluding a peace agreement between the DPRK and the United States in order to turn the unstable armistice situation into a durable peace, and have been making all sincere efforts to achieve this.

However, the Kim Yong-sam group responded to all of our peaceloving steps and efforts with a full-scale acceleration of the heavy-water reactor construction to develop nuclear weapons. This is an open challenge to us and premeditated provocation maneuvers to create new obstacles for North-South relations and for solving the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula and further aggravates the situation in the Far East.

As has been widely known, proceeding from the position to basically resolve the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula, we took the important step of freezing the graphite moderated reactors, although they have nothing to do with nuclear weapons development.

Under this condition, the Kim Yong-sam group should have deservedly taken the step of sending U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea back to their home and should have renounced the heavy-water reactor construction maneuvers aimed at developing nuclear weapons.

Nevertheless, the Kim Yong-sam group is even scheming to build a nuclear waste disposal site near the Military Demarcation Line. The rascals destroyed the natural environment by recklessly dumping radioactive nuclear waste. Moreover, they are going to build the nuclear waste disposal site threatening the life of human beings. This is part of the criminal maneuvers to inflict enormous nuclear damages on the northern half of the Republic. This can never be pardoned.

The Kim Yong-sam group is indeed a group of nuclear lunatics and national traitors who do not hesitate to commit the criminal act of driving the whole people and all lands of the nation to nuclear disaster.

The Kim Yong-sam group, which has turned South Korea into the largest nuclear arsenal in the world and which is recklessly running wild to drive fellow countrymen into nuclear calamities together with outside forces, will face ruin being subject to stern denunciation and rejection by all of the Korean people and the world's people.

DPRK: NODONG SINMUN Calls ROK Claims of 'Economic Growth' Deceptive*SK0405083996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0832 GMT 4 May 96*

["Absurd 'Growth' Ballad of Colonial Stooge" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today denounces the Kim Yong-sam group for loudly advertizing "economic growth".

Their deceptive advertisement is aimed at covering up their crimes, saving the daily worsening ruling crisis caused by the "slush fund scandal" and prolonging their remaining days, the author of the article says, and goes on:

The South Korean economy is in a bottomless quagmire owing to the "reform" and "world competition" policy of the Kim Yong-sam group.

As the "export-oriented economy" with the stress on special domains, it continues having a fabulous trade deficit with a slowdown of export. Minor enterprises, which account for the overwhelming majority in industrial establishments, are going bankrupt en masse. Agriculture has been totally devastated.

South Korea is totally defeated in the trade competition through the "World Trade Organisation". The paid statisticians of South Korea talked as if South Korea were making "successes" in trade but could not but confess that its trade deficit last year increased 6 times above the previous year and so South Korea is in the worst economic situation.

Is the "economic growth" possible when the export which is the lifeline of the South Korean economy is in so bad a state?

South Korea is also totally defeated in the capital competition through the "World Trade Organisation". South Korean industrial complexes with no capital accumulation depend on foreign capital, bank loans and other capital. In this situation capital competition with the developed capitalist countries is likely to drive the South Korean business firms into bankruptcy.

Owing to the traitor Kim Yong-sam's treacherous economic policy depending on outside forces, the dependency and bankruptcy of the South Korean economy are worsening unprecedentedly. South Korea has become the largest "debtor" in the world.

No matter how craftily Kim Yong-sam describes the economic destruction as "economic growth" with false figures, no one will lend an ear to it.

Kim Yong-sam must not make such an absurd remark as cannot deceive a child, but admit and apologize for the arch crimes he committed, making the South Korean economy bankrupt with his treacherous economic policy and impoverishing the people's life, and step down at once.

DPRK: ROK Students Demand Truth About Presidential Election Funds*SK0605055096 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0322 GMT 6 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA) — About 3,000 students affiliated with the Pusan and South Kyongsang Provincial Federation of University Student Councils held a ceremony for declaring the struggle for the current month at Tonguei University on May 4, a South Korean radio report said.

The students strongly demanded that the "presidential election" fund be opened to public and those involved in the May 18 massacre punished.

After the meeting, the students carried on a fierce demonstration over two hours in an attempt to go out of the campus.

The raged ralliers showered fire on the police who blocked them from going out.

Meanwhile, some 300 students who went out of the campus staged a demonstration in the centre of Pusan City.

The fascist clique drove a number of riot police to crack down upon the ralliers.

DPRK Papers Condemn Violent Acts Against Korean Students in Japan*SK0505090296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0739 GMT 5 May 96*

["Deliberate and Premeditated Crimes" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 5 (KCNA) — Violent acts and words against Korean students in Japan are now being continued by right-wing reactionaries of Japan in a very shameless and brutal way.

A signed commentary of NODONG SINMUN today brands their violent and brutal acts and words as a premeditated and deliberate crime, part of their schemes against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

The analyst says:

The Japanese authorities, who have connived at criminal acts against Chongnyon and Japan-resident Koreans continued by right-wing reactionaries, are to blame for the recent incidents.

It is no accident that Japanese gangsters committed one outrage against innocent Korean girl students after another in a few days. These violences cannot be construed otherwise than criminal acts seeking a sinister political purpose to show enmity toward the DPRK and suppress Chongnyon and Korean Residents in Japan.

We warn that anyone who violates Chongnyon and Koreans in Japan will not get off scotfree.

The Japanese authorities must promptly arrest and punish the criminals and take a strict legal measure for protecting the Korean students in Japan so that such incidents may not occur again.

A signed commentary of MINJU CHOSON says that if the Japanese authorities continue to permit and encourage the violent acts of the right-wing gangsters in defiance of our repeated warnings and demands, they will take the responsibility of all consequences arising therefrom.

DPRK: Hwang Chang-yop Meets Japanese Studying Chuche

SK0605061396 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0342 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA) — Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, on Sunday met and had a friendly talk with a delegation of the Secretariat of the Society for the Study of the Chuche Idea of Japanese Teachers led by Masagazu Yokobori, its director.

Present on the occasion was Kim Yong-su, vice-chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries.

DPRK: Visiting Chongnyon Groups Arrive 5 May

SK0605055396 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0323 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA) — A home-visiting group of Japan-resident Korean students and the 261st home-visiting group of Japan-resident Koreans arrived in Wonsan on Sunday by the ship "Mangyongbong-92" for a visit to the socialist homeland.

DPRK: PRC Friendship Delegation Departs 1 May

SK0405044796 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean*
1300 GMT 1 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries and the China-DPRK Friendship Association led by its Vice President Xu Qun left Pyongyang on 1 May.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Chon Yon-ok, vice chairman of the DPRK Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries and vice chairman of the DPRK-China Friendship Association, and Song Mazhi [name as transliterated], counselor at the PRC Embassy to our country.

DPRK: WPK Friendship Visiting Group Leaves for China

SK0405114596 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0936 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA) — A friendship visiting group of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] led by Pak Chang-hong, secretary of the South Hamgyong provincial committee of the WPK, left here today for a visit to China.

DPRK: Kim Yong-sop Named New Ambassador to Cambodia

SK0405043096 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0341 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA) — Kim Yong-sop was appointed DPRK ambassador E.P. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] to the Kingdom of Cambodia, according to a decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee.

DRK: Cambodian Prime Ministers Send Message to Kim Chong-il

SK0605101096 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean*
2200 GMT 5 May 96

["Message" from First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia to the DPRK "Great Leader" Kim Chong-il on the occasion of Kim Il-song's birthday]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a message from First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The message reads: Pyongyang, to Marshal Kim Chong-il, the great leader [widachan suryong] of the Korean people and chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission;

Your Excellency, we give Your excellency, the officers and men of the Korean People's Army [KPA], and the Korean people our wholehearted respect in the name of the Government, the Armed Forces, and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and in our own name with the same fraternal feelings the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], the Korean Government, the Korean people, and the KPA have on the historic birth anniversary of Generalissimo Kim Il-song, the brilliant founder of the chuche idea and the most outstanding great man in the DPRK.

We the Cambodian people always remember the historical and important assistance and consideration Generalissimo Kim Il-song gave in his lifetime to our respected and beloved King His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk since the days of the Cambodian People's Socialist Community.

It is most precious of all that Generalissimo Kim Il-song and the Korean people expressed wholehearted assistance to and sympathy with the just cause of struggle of the Kingdom of Cambodia. We the Cambodian people will ensure this benevolence and consideration is recorded forever in the histories of Cambodia and Korea and is turned into fuller bloom and develop the excellent relations between the two countries generation to generation.

We believe that the DPRK will attain comprehensive progress and development under the wise leadership of Your Excellency, the brilliant inheritor of the chuche idea; and that the fraternal relations between our two countries will be everlasting and immortal.

We wish Your Excellency happiness and new brilliant success. We express the most sublime respect to Your Excellency.

[Signed] First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia

[Dated] 12 April 1996, Phnom Penh

DPRK: WPK Delegation Departs for UMNO Anniversary in Malaysia

SK0605103296 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0958 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] led by Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the

WPK Central Committee, left here today to participate in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Malay's National Organization (UMNO).

The delegation was seen off at Pyongyang railway station by Chi Chae-yong, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.

DPRK: Envoy to Nepal Meets With Nepalese Party Leaders

SK0405100296 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0840 GMT 4 May 96

["All Nepalese names are as received" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA) — Surya Bahadur Thapa, chairman of the National Democratic Party of Nepal, and Chairman Man Mohan Adhikari and General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal of the Nepal Communist Party (UML) Central Committee expressed support and solidarity for the Korean people's cause of justice during their recent meetings with the DPRK ambassador to Nepal.

Man Mohan Adhikari said:

"We deeply respect the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the defender of the socialist cause.

"If the U.S. imperialists unleash another war of aggression against socialist Korea, the Nepal Communist Party (UML) will be with the fighting Korean people."

Madhav Kumar Nepal said: "We will always express support and solidarity for the just struggle of the Korean people, who unyieldingly advance under the banner of socialism despite difficult conditions."

Surya Bahadur Thapa hoped that the situation on the Korean peninsula would be relaxed and that Korea be reunified peacefully. He expressed support to the DPRK's proposals for replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement.

DPRK: Ambassador Pays Farewell Call on Nepalese Party Head

SK0505035696 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean*
1300 GMT 30 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 23 April, our country's Ambassador Yim Hoe-song paid a farewell call on Narayan Man Bijukchhe, chairman of the Central Committee of the Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party [NWPP].

In the meeting, the chairman asked the ambassador to convey his heartfelt greetings from him and the

NWPP Central Committee to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The chairman said that even though the U.S. imperialists are resorting to every conceivable scheme to crush Korea, which adheres to socialism, they can never frighten the DPRK people who are closely rallied around the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He pointed out that the Pyongyang Declaration is an ideological weapon that endowed the world's communists with justness in their cause and new confidence in sure victory. He then stressed that the world's communists having this mighty weapon is an immortal feat of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Pointing out that supporting the struggle of the WPK and the DPRK people who are marching ahead under the banner of socialism is the NWPP's lofty international duty, he said that the relations with the WPK will further strengthen and develop.

DPRK: SPA Delegation Meets FRY President 25 Apr

SK0405021196 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean*
0100 GMT 30 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 25 April, Yugoslavian President Zoran Lilic received a delegation of our country's Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] led by Yi Mong-ho, secretary of the SPA Standing Committee.

In the meeting, the head of the delegation conveyed greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Zoran Lilic. The president expressed deep gratitude for this and asked the head of the delegation to convey his heartfelt greetings to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The president said he sincerely wishes that His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja], will wisely lead the DPRK people's struggle to the end.

He then continued: In his lifetime, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was deeply interested in the friendly relations between the two countries and contributed greatly to developing and strengthening this bilateral relations.

Yugoslavia and the DPRK have excellent friendly relations. Availing ourselves on this occasion, we affirm that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as in the past, will continue to support the DPRK people.

We have always supported your country's formula for national reunification. Your country's formula for national reunification is a brilliant formula for national

reunification designed to defuse the crisis on the Korean peninsula. We hope that the reunification of fatherland will be realized according to your wish.

It is truly just that your country has raised the issue of abolishing the national security law, and we express our support for this. The proposal for founding a confederal state is a just, reasonable, and brilliant formula. The Korean Armistice Agreement must be replaced with a peace agreement.

DPRK: Kim Yong-nam Holds Talks With Libyan Counterpart 1 May

SK0505025596 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean*
1300 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks between Kim Yong-nam, our country's vice premier and foreign minister, and Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary for external liaison and international cooperation in the Libyan General People's Congress, were held in Tripoli, Libya, on 1 May.

Attending the talks from our side was an entourage including the foreign minister and our country's ambassador to Libya; the Libyan side included the standing secretary in charge of Asian affairs in the Secretariat for External Liaison and International Cooperation in the Libya's General People's Congress and other officials concerned.

At the talks, views were exchanged on a series of issues of mutual interest.

DPRK: Nigeria's Sani Abacha Meets Economic Delegation

SK0405035696 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean*
0100 GMT 30 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 22 April, Sani Abacha, Nigerian head of state, received our country's government economic delegation led by Kwak Pom-ki, minister of machine industry.

In the meeting, the head of the delegation conveyed greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to Head of State Sani Abacha. The head of state expressed deep gratitude for this and asked the head of the delegation to convey his heartfelt greetings to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Warmly welcoming the DPRK Government economic delegation's visit to Nigeria, the head of the state pointed out that its visit will contribute greatly to further strengthening the traditional relations of friendship.

He then continued: Even though the two countries are far away geographically, we have become like brothers as our two countries' desires to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation coincide with each other. We are satisfied with the brilliant diplomatic and economic relations existing between our country and your country, and will further develop this. I sincerely congratulate his excellency Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja], over his devoted efforts for peace, security, and prosperity. Your country values a country's independence and implemented self-reliance and fortitude. I think this is the most valuable asset of your country.

Stressing that the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il is wisely leading the DPRK people's struggle to reunify the fatherland, he pointed out the DPRK people will unfailingly realize the country's reunification.

DPRK: Angolan President's Special Envoy Arrives 4 May

*SK0405113396 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1019 GMT 4 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA) — Manuel Helder Vieira Dias [name as received], director of the military affairs of the presidential office and director of the strategy institute, who is a special envoy of the Angolan president, and his entourage arrived here today.

They were met by Kang Sok-chu, first vice-minister of foreign affairs, and officials concerned.

The DPRK Government gave a reception for the guests.

DPRK: Angolan President's Special Envoy Visits Kim Il-song Statue

*SK0505075396 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0720 GMT 5 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 5 (KCNA) — Manuel Helder Vieira Dias [name as received], director of the military affairs of the presidential office and director general of service of the strategic security who is a special envoy of the Angolan president, and his entourage laid bouquets and made bows before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill on Saturday.

DPRK: South African Communist Party Head Meets WPK Delegation

*SK0405042896 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
0100 GMT 30 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] On 19 April, Charles Nqakula, general secretary of the Central Committee of the South African Communist Party, received a delegation of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] led by Choe Chinsu, vice director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.

In the meeting, the head of the delegation conveyed greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to General Secretary Charles Nqakula. The general secretary expressed deep gratitude for this and asked the head of the delegation to convey his heartfelt greetings to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The general secretary said that the death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the biggest loss not only to the WPK and the South African Communist Party but also to the development of international communist movement. He said the WPK and the DPRK people are accelerating the vigorous march toward the consummation of the socialist cause which was pioneered by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song [kyongaehanun kimilsong tongji].

He stressed that the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] is not vacillating even in the complicated international atmosphere and is giving confidence and courage to international communists and the world's progressive parties with practical leadership.

DPRK: Zimbabwean Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive

*SK0405104696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0936 GMT 4 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA) — The Zimbabwean Government delegation led by I.S.G. Mudenge, minister of foreign affairs, arrived here today.

The delegation was greeted at the airport by Kang Sok-chu, first vice-minister of foreign affairs, and other officials concerned.

DPRK: Zimbabwean Government Delegation Visits Kim Il-song Statue

*SK0505075696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0721 GMT 5 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 5 (KCNA) — The Zimbabwean Government delegation led by I.S.G.

Mudenge, minister of foreign affairs, laid a floral basket and made a bow before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill on Saturday.

DPRK: Yi Chong-ok Meets Zimbabwean Foreign Minister

SK0605054896 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0320 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA) — Vice-President Yi Chong-ok met and conversed in a cordial atmosphere with the government delegation of Zimbabwe led by Foreign Minister I.S.G. Mudenge at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on Sunday.

Present there were Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Choe Su-hon and Zimbabwean Ambassador to Korea B.G. Chidyaisiku.

The Zimbabwean foreign minister asked the vice-president to convey the warm greetings from President Robert G. Mugabe to the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He said his country respects the Korean people's stand for the country's reunification and stands by the Korean people, stressing it is invariable.

He said the Korean people's struggle for national reunification is enjoying support from the Africans including Zimbabweans.

DPRK: Kang Sok-chu Meets With Zimbabwean Government Delegation

SK0605103496 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0959 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA) — Talks between the government delegations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Republic of the Zimbabwe were held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present at the talks on the DPRK side were Kang Sok-chu, first vice-minister of foreign affairs, and other officials concerned, and on the opposite side were members of the Zimbabwean Government delegation led by I.S.G. Mudenge, minister of foreign affairs, and Zimbabwean ambassador to Korea B.G. Chidyaisiku.

The two sides discussed a series of matters of common concern in a friendly atmosphere.

DPRK: WPK Delegation Meets Mozambique Liberation Front Head

SK0505043796 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean*
1300 GMT 30 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 23 April, Manuel Kome [name as transliterated], secretary general of the Central Committee of the Mozambique Liberation Front, received a delegation of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] led by Choe Chin-su, vice director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.

In the meeting, the head of the delegation conveyed greetings from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il to the secretary general. The general secretary expressed deep gratitude for this and asked the head of the delegation to convey his heartfelt greetings wishing good health to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Saying that he cannot suppress his sorrow over the death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who is the teacher of the Mozambique Liberation Front and other progressive parties of Africa, the secretary general said he once again expresses his deep sorrow over his death.

The secretary general pointed out that even though the imperialists are resorting to tricks to isolate and crush socialist Korea, the WPK and the DPRK people are achieving victory after victory by smashing the imperialists' maneuvers. He said he thanks the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kimjongil tongji] for leading the socialist cause to the road of victory without any vacillation in a complicated environment.

Pointing out that the relations between the WPK and the Mozambique Liberation Front are traditional relations of comrades-in-arms forged in the struggle against imperialists, he stressed that the Mozambique Liberation Front and the Mozambican people will invariably support the struggle of the WPK and the DPRK people for the socialist cause and the cause of national reunification.

DPRK: WPK Sends Telegram to Socialist Party of Chile

SK0605061196 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0334 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA) — The Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee sent a telegram of greetings to the 25th Congress of the Socialist Party of Chile on May 2.

The WPK Central Committee noted in the telegram that the Socialist Party of Chile, over the past period, has

made a big stride forward in the efforts for expanding and strengthening the party ranks, safeguarding the political rights of working masses and realizing democratization of the society.

The telegram expressed the belief that the friendly relations between the two parties would continue to develop favourably in the future, too, in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship and wished the Socialist Party of Chile a success in the work of its congress.

DPRK: Placards in Cheju City Commemorate Kim Il-song's Birthday

*SK0405044496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0351 GMT 4 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA) — Placards commemorating the 84th birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song in the name of the Paektu Society were found in Cheju City on April 15, according to Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation quoting information of the Cheju Island Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea.

A placard hung on the wall of a building near to the administration office of the island, said:

"Today is a significant day when President Kim Il-song, the eternal sun of our nation, was born.

"Let us pray for eternal life of President Kim Il-song with respect for him.

"The brilliant exploits performed by President Kim Il-song for the history of our nation will be immortal!"

Another placard hung on the wall of an apartment building said:

"President Kim Il-song will be immortal in the hearts of the 70 million Koreans.

He is the eternal sun of the Tangun nation!

"Let us uphold President Kim Il-song as the sun of chuche forever!"

DPRK: SKNDF Committees Show 'Reverence' for Kim Il-song

*SK0605084296 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0820 GMT 6 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA) — Reverence for the great leader President Kim Il-song is running higher among South Korean people of all walks of life, according to the Seoul-based radio Voice of National Salvation quoting information from local

committees of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (NDFSK) [SKNDF].

According to information from the NDFSK Incheon City Committee, a meeting praying for eternity of President Kim Il-song was held by members of the society of women for embracing spring of reunification on the occasion of the April 15 holiday.

A woman Han Chin-hyang said at the meeting that the society has prepared a red-cloth embroidery picturing the image of President Kim Il-song in representation of the feelings of the fellow countrymen and mankind missing him, noting he is the great sun of the people as well as the sun of mankind as he guided the cause of mankind for independence with bright rays of the chuche idea.

A woman Choe Sun-mi said she hoped the reunification would be achieved as soon as possible so that she could go to Pyongyang where the president is preserved in state to make a deep bow to him representing the unanimous feelings of respect of the people in the south.

According to information from the NDFSK South Cholla Provincial Committee, a citizen Kim Pae-won, a member of the April 15 Fellowship Society, said to his villagers:

"Though I live in the southern half of Korea, my mind is running to President Kim Il-song and Mangyongdae, his birthplace,

"President Kim Il-song cannot be said to be dead. He remains forever with the nation.

"I will devote my all to the struggle for national reunification to bring earlier the day when I will visit Mangyongdae, the native place of President Kim Il-song and the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in which he is preserved in state."

DPRK: SKNDF Urges Struggle for Democracy in ROK

*SK0505085096 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0732 GMT 5 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 5 (KCNA) — The National Democratic Front of South Korea [SKNDF] will fight to the last to decisively break the chain of wage slave, achieve the genuine working-class liberation and build an independent, new society in which right to existence and democratic rights are fully ensured, singing the "Song of May Day" with ten million working masses in South Korea.

The director of the worker-peasant department of the SKNDF Central Committee declared this in a statement issued on April 30 on the occasion of May day.

He said the working masses should frustrate the "labour-management harmony policy" and "new strategy of economic management" pursued by the "civilian-veiled" traitorous group, immediately win the right to live and open a new phase for the development of the labour movement by dint of unity under the slogans of wage hike, the total abolition of evil laws on labour and the strengthening of the General Federation of Trade Unions for Democracy.

They should develop their struggle for democracy and right to live onto anti-Kim Yong-sam struggle and activate their struggle until they overthrow the rotten and corrupt, "civilian" dictatorial group that is parasitic on the repression of the labour movement and the policy of giving special benefits to comprador businesses, and establish a genuine, independent and democratic government, he said.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Work Discusses 'Peculiar' Korean-Style Socialism

SK0605061096 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0332 GMT 6 May 96

["Highly Important Work Giving Conviction of Sure Victory in Socialism" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA) — May 5 marks the 5th anniversary of the publication of "Our Socialism Centred on the Masses Shall Not Perish", a famous work of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Seeing through the situation at that time and the requirements of the development of revolution, Comrade Kim Chong-il in the work published on May 5, 1991, defined the Korean-style socialism as a peculiar one centred on the masses built by the Korean people with their own strength along the line chosen by themselves and gave an all-round elucidation of the advantages of socialism and the source of invincible might.

The work gives the revolutionary people the unshakable conviction of the superiority and invincibility of the Korean-style socialism. It instills in the hearts of people the indomitable will and revolutionary faith to defend the banner of socialism to the end no matter what storm may blow. It, therefore, is an inspiring banner.

NODONG SINMUN Sunday dedicated a by-lined article to the anniversary of the publication of the work.

On the significance of the work, the article says it implants in the mind of the Korean people a high pride and confidence of being a revolutionary people who pioneered the road to socialism in an original way under the banner of the *chuche* idea.

The work also serves as a militant banner inspiring the people with unwavering conviction of superiority of Korean-style socialism and gives unshakable faith of the invincibility of Korean-style socialism centred on the masses, it says.

DPRK Papers Mark Founding of Fatherland Restoration Association

SK0505090796 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0746 GMT 5 May 96

["60th Anniversary of ARF Marked" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 5 (KCNA) — Today is the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland (ARF).

Pyongyang-based papers dedicate editorials to this anniversary.

The association was founded by the great leader President Kim Il-song on May 5, 1936.

It was the most comprehensive and integral anti-Japanese national united front organisation embracing all segments of people including workers and peasants.

With the foundation of the organisation, broad segments of people aspiring after anti-Japanese patriotism were united closer around President Kim Il-song and the internal force of the Korean revolution firmly built up.

An editorial of NODONG SINMUN says that the past 60 years was a proud history in which the singlehearted unity of the Korean revolutionary ranks based on one centre, one ideology has been firmly consolidated.

It further says:

President Kim Il-song whom the Korean nation acclaimed for the first time in history spanning thousands of years was the only centripetal point of the unity of the Korean people.

This period was also a worthwhile one when all the fellow countrymen have dynamically advanced the noble historic cause of the nation, rallied firm under the banner of the great national unity.

In the whole period of his revolutionary activities, President Kim Il-song devoted his all to uniting people from all walks of life who were different in ideology, political view, religious belief and social position.

The tradition of singlehearted unity, the tradition of great national unity, which was established by President Kim Il-song, has been successfully inherited by

respected Comrade Kim Chong-il and it is demonstrating its greater might.

Comrade Kim Chong-il is the sole centre of the single-hearted unity of Korea, which is being carried forward generation after generation.

He is a great statesman and an ever-victorious, iron-willed brilliant commander who is making victories, shouldering the destinies of Korea and the nation.

An editorial of MINJU CHOSON says that the Korean people won victory in the anti-Japanese revolution and accomplished the historic cause of national restoration by waging a heroic struggle, firmly united as one man under the banner of national restoration upheld by President Kim Il-song.

They have built a powerful socialist country independent in politics, self-supporting in economy and self-reliant in defence in this land by successfully implementing the tasks laid down in the 10-point programme of the ARF, MINJU CHOSON says, and declares:

The Korean people under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il will certainly achieve national reunification and the final victory of the revolutionary cause of *chuche*, determinedly smashing any moves of the separatists at home and abroad.

DPRK Meeting Held on Fatherland Restoration Association Founding

*SK0505104196 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1000 GMT 5 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 5 (KCNA) — A national meeting was held today at the 6,000-seat theatre of the April 25 House of Culture to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland [ARF] by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Placed on the platform was a portrait of President Kim Il-song against the background of a red flag.

Present at the meeting were Vice-presidents Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea; Vice-President Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party; other senior party and state officials, leading officials of party and power bodies, administrative and economic organs and public organisations, anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, generals of the Korean People's Army and working people in the city.

Pak Song-chol delivered a report.

The Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland founded by President Kim Il-song on May 5, 1936, was

the first comprehensive anti-Japanese national united front body in Korea and a powerful underground revolutionary organisation which rallied all the anti-Japanese forces at home and abroad as one and ensured a unified leadership over it.

The reporter quoted the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"The foundation of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland in May 1936 was an event of historic significance in firmly rallying all strata of people including workers and peasants around the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and in cementing the mass foundation of the party."

The foundation of the association opened a brighter prospect in rallying the whole nation firm around the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as one political force and thus strengthening the driving force of the Korean revolution, leading the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle as a whole to a new upswing and speeding up the cause of national restoration by the Korean people themselves, said the reporter.

The reporter said that from the first days of its foundation, the ARF played a great role and performed undying exploits in the struggle of the Korean people to attain national unity, restore the country and achieve the victory of the revolution by mobilising all the anti-Japanese forces.

The foundation of the ARF and its exploits eloquently proves the valuable truth that only those people who are guided by a great leader are able to form an invincible political force based on one idea, one centre and cover the victorious road of the revolution, the reporter said, and continued:

It was thanks to the tradition of great national unity and precious exploits which were established by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in the flames of the rigorous anti-Japanese revolution that our people could successfully promote the building of a new democratic Korea with the united efforts of all people even in the very complicated circumstances after the liberation of the country and won a brilliant victory in the fatherland liberation war.

And they successfully built a powerful socialist country independent in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-reliant in defence in this land with the might of the singlehearted unity of the whole party, the whole Army and all the people.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, regarding the unity and cohesion of the party and the people as a matter vital to the destiny of the revolution,

constantly gave wise guidance to the work to strengthen the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses in each period and at each stage of the developing revolution.

By successfully applying the idea of Comrade Kim Il-song on the great national unity, the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il has firmly united all the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas in the idea of patriotism, transcending differences in idea and system, political view and religious belief so that they could energetically work for the reunification of the country and the prosperity and development of the nation.

The reporter referred to the tasks to accomplish the socialist cause of *chuche* and the cause of national reunification by successfully inheriting and developing the tradition of unity and cohesion established by Comrade Kim Il-song during the glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

He said:

We should purely inherit the tradition of the singlehearted unity around the leader which was established and cemented at a time when the Korean revolution started, closely unite behind the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and defend and consolidate the unity and cohesion of the party and the revolutionary ranks like the apples of their eyes.

In order to achieve the reunification of the country by the internal force of the nation, it is imperative for the whole nation to firmly unite as one man under the banner of "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his lifetime.

Consummated in the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation are the *chuche*-based idea of the great national unity set forth by Comrade Kim Il-song in the days of the sacred war for the restoration of the country and precious experience he accumulated in the course of the protracted struggle to put it into practice. Also clearly indicated there are fundamental principles and ways to achieve the national unity.

Those who truly love the country and the nation and aspire after reunification should singleheartedly unite as one man under the banner of the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation, regardless of their differences in political view, religious belief and system, as the whole nation fought in firm unity around the united front under the banner of the restoration of the country in the past. By doing so, they must make tangible contributions to the cause of national reunification, those with strength dedicating

their strength, those with knowledge devoting it and those with money donating it.

The prospect of reunification is optimistic and Comrade Kim Il-song's behests on reunification will certainly be realized as there are noble teachings on reunification left by him with great devotion and tireless efforts till the last moment of his life and as there is the correct policy of our party for national reunification.

DPRK: Yi Chong-ok, Other Leaders Attend ARF Anniversary Meeting

*SK0605061496 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
2100 GMT 5 May 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A central report meeting marking the 60th anniversary of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland [ARF], an organization personally founded by the Great Leader [widaehan suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song, was held on 5 May at the 25 April Cultural Hall. [passage omitted]

Comrades Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, members of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and vice presidents; Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Korea Socialist Democratic Party Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, minister of the People's Armed Forces, and marshal of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; Comrade Chon Pyong-ho, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Chol-man, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Hong Song-nam, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premier of the Administration Council; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrades Paek Hak-nim and Kim Ik-hyon, vice marshals of the KPA; Comrades Hwang Chang-yop and Kim Chung-nin, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrades Kim Pok-sin and Chang Chol, vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the Economic Policy Commission of the Central People's Committee [CPC]; Comrade Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the State Inspection Commission of the CPC; Ms. Yu Mi-yong, chairman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; and responsible functionaries of the party, organs of power, and social organizations appeared at the rostrum.

The meeting began with the music of the national anthem. Comrade Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president, gave a commemorative report. [passage omitted]

DPRK: Central Committee Confers Honors on 'Compatriots' in Japan

SK0505142596 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean*
1300 GMT 30 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A ceremony took place today at the Mansudae Assembly Hall to confer DPRK titles of honor and orders to Korean compatriots in Japan. Vice President Yi Chong-ok and pertinent officials attended the ceremony.

After a DPRK Central People's Committee decree was read, the Order of the National Flag First Class, along with the title of people's doctor, was conferred on Kim Man-yu, honorary superintendent of the Kim Man-yu Hospital, who contributed to the prosperity and development of the fatherland and the patriotic work of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan; the Order of Labor, along with the title of meritorious doctor, to Kim Il-u, director of the board and vice superintendent of the Arai Nishi Hospital; the Order of the National Flag First Class to Pyon Ok-tu, director of the board of the Arai Nishi Hospital; and the Order of the National Flag First Class to Yi Su-chol, member of the overseas medical cooperation of the Songhwa Association.

The Order of Friendship First Class and a medal were conferred to Atsuyoshi Takao and Kenko Mabuchi of Japan today.

DPRK Farmers Begin Transplanting Corn Seedlings

SK0305083496 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0755 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA) — Transplantation of humus-potted maize seedlings has begun in all rural communities of Korea.

Having grown sturdy seedlings as demanded by the chuche farming method, the farms in South Hwanghae and South Pyongan Provinces and Pyongyang Municipality are registering success in transplantation from the beginning through detailed planning for each field and each day and concentration of labor force and machines.

Especially, Unchon, Pongchon and Sinchon Counties in South Hwanghae Province are overfulfilling the daily quotas by 20 percent by establishing a conveyor system of work.

The rural communities in North Pyongan and North Hwanghae Provinces and Kaesong Municipality and on the east coast are transplanting the maize seedlings both in time and in quality.

Maize is a main crop next to rice in Korea.

In Korea, maize seedlings are grown on humus pots that contain manure and fertilizer before being transplanted on fields for a higher yield.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Thanks Haeju People for Building Houses

SK0605054996 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0318 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 6 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to employees and officials of organs and enterprises in Haeju City who were mobilized in building dwelling houses in Singwang co-op farm, Haeju City, South Hwanghae Province, and graduates of the Haeju Communist University who volunteered to work in rural communities in hearty response to the agriculture-first policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

His thanks also went to officials and employees of the public service company of Potonggang District, Pyongyang, and of the transportation company of the east harbour of Chongjin Port in North Hamgyong Province, a worker of the Moran Guidance Bureau, So Sang-il, and many other officials and working people throughout the country, for doing good things for society and the collective.

DPRK: New Houses Built in Okto-ri, Yonggang County

SK0305114396 *Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean*
1200 GMT 1 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A housewarming ceremony was held in Okto-ri in Yonggang County, a county of honor. The Okto Cooperative Farm is a historical farm the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song visited many times and gave clear guidances on ways and methods to develop the farm. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said that he would come often because he could not forget Comrade Yim Kun-san, an old management committee chairman, who dedicated his entire life to agricultural production.

The 129 new one-story cultural houses, spanning three villages along the sunny foot of the mountain, each have two rooms, a living room, a bathroom, and a storage shed and animal pen in the garden, providing conveniences for the farmers.

Thanks to the consideration of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il [widaehan yongdoja kim chong-il tongji], a housewarming ceremony was held on 30 April. The agricultural working people, builders, and helpers here were deeply moved and boundlessly overjoyed. The farmers and their families were filled with revolutionary enthusiasm to achieve bumper crops this year without fail and loyally uphold the leadership of the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il [kyongaehanun kim chong-il tongji], who has shown repeated consideration for the agricultural development of the country and the abundant circumstances in the farm, while personally inspecting the People's Army units at the forefront to safeguard the safety of the fatherland and the people.

DPRK: Meeting Marks 50th Anniversary of KGFST

SK0305041596 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0346 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 3 (KCNA) — A meeting was held here on Thursday to mark the 50th anniversary of the Korean General Federation of Science and Technology (KGFST).

The federation was founded on April 14, 1946, by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Over the past 50 years it has made great contributions to building the socialist independent national economy and developing the nation's science and technology under the wise guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and the leader.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent a congratulatory message to the officials, scientists and technicians of the federation on its 50th birthday.

The message noted with high appreciation that they have devotedly worked to fulfill their revolutionary duty with intense loyalty to the party and the leader.

It expressed the belief that they would make greater success in fulfilling their revolutionary duty for prosperity and development of Korean style socialism in the spirit of the red flag, the spirit displayed during the "arduous march", under the guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Addressing the meeting, Choe Hui-chong, chairman of the Central Committee of the KGFST, said that the federation has creditably discharged its honorable mission and duty in the efforts for the development of the nation's science and technology and the building of the socialist independent national economy.

He stressed the need to successfully organize the National Scientific and Technological Festival, which is held traditionally every year, so as to give full play to its vitality, and to further promote exchange in science and technology with other countries.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

Present there was Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee.

DPRK: Choe Tae-pok Attends Central Science, Technology Festival

SK0405051596 *Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean* 1100 GMT 30 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The 11th Central Science and Technology Festival has opened. The opening ceremony was held at the Youth Central Hall on 29 April.

Present at the ceremony were Comrade Choe Tae-pok and other functionaries concerned; scientists and technicians from all over the country; and working people.

Choe Hui-chong, chairman of the State Commission of Science and Technology, made an opening speech. Stressing that the country's science and technology developed ceaselessly thanks to the wise leadership and benevolence of the party and the leader [suryong], the speaker said all the scientists and technicians should vigorously accelerate their research work for the development of science and technology and technical innovation on the basis of the achievements and experiences gained in the recent festival.

DPRK: Choe Tae-pok Attends Scientific Festival Closing Ceremony

SK0405090196 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0837 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA) — The 11th national scientific and technological festival was held here from April 29 to May 2.

Participating in the festival were scientists, technicians, workers, peasants, youths and students who had been selected in local festivals, which took place from December last year to February this year, involving 138,000 people across the country.

The festival participants presented many exhibits showing the achievements they made in scientific research and an extensive mass technical innovation movement, true to the behests of the great leader President Kim Il-song and to the intention of the respected General Kim

Chong-il. They also presented 469 scientific and technological data.

Submitted to the festival were achievements of scientific research and technical innovation materials, which have been introduced in agriculture, light industry, coal, power and metal industries, railway transport and other domains of the national economy, paying off profusely.

In the festival special class certificates were given to Pak In-song, a researcher of the Kangwon provincial agricultural scientific institution, and four other people.

Pak In-song produced a new variety of crop resistant to cold, high temperature and drought, and completed technique of its cultivation.

And above 40 items of scientific and technical achievements such as the result of research into protein plant and the technique of development of natural materials for paints, which have been paying off in practice, were estimated as the first class.

The closing ceremony of the festival was held on Thursday.

Present there were Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, officials concerned, scientists, technicians and working people.

DPRK: Ceremony Marks Start of Joint Venture With Nigeria

*SK0405044696 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0346 GMT 4 May 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA) — The Korea-Nigeria Jameson Machine Company, Ltd. was inaugurated with due ceremony in Enugu State, Nigeria, on April 24.

In his speech at the ceremony, the governor of Enugu State, who also represented the Nigerian Government, said the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has rendered disinterested help to the Nigerian people in the efforts for economic self-reliance.

The achievements made by the Korean people in economic and cultural construction under the wise leadership of His Excellency Kim Chong-il are a precious experience for the developing countries, he noted.

He said Nigeria would make contractual and equity joint ventures with the DPRK in various fields.

The ceremony was attended by the DPRK Ambassador to Nigeria, technicians and the DPRK Government economic delegation.

A letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the ceremony.

DPRK Daily Praises Mass Ideological Transformation Campaign

*SK0405084996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0827 GMT 4 May 96*

["NODONG SINMUN on Method of Ideological Transformation" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 4 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today says that a mass ideological transformation campaign is a powerful method of ideological transformation and a consistent policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in his famous work "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential for Accomplishing Socialism" defined the mass ideological transformation campaign as a powerful method to suit the nature of the socialist society and gave a comprehensive exposition of the theory on this campaign.

The idea and theory of the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il on vigorously conducting the mass ideological transformation campaign is a most just theory which correctly reflects the intrinsic requirement of the socialist society, the author of the article says, and notes:

The theory is a most scientific and revolutionary theory which makes it possible to successfully push ahead with the ideological transformation in reliance on the inexhaustible strength of the popular masses.

The campaign is a powerful method which organizes and mobilizes the broad masses to ideological transformation and a mighty means to carry out ideological work with success by relying on the revolutionary enthusiasm and creative ingenuity of the masses.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also clearly indicated the important principled matters arising in organizing and launching the mass ideological transformation campaign.

His idea and theory on this campaign has had its validity and vitality eloquently proved through the practice of the Korean revolution.

The proud reality that communist traits are brought into full play among the Korean people is a clear demonstration of the validity and invincible vitality of the idea and theory indicated by General Kim Chong-il on the mass ideological transformation campaign.

DPRK: SONYON SINMUN Celebrates 50th Anniversary

SK0505083896 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0728 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, May 5 (KCNA) — The 50th founding anniversary of SONYON SINMUN, a church-based publication for young people, has been marked in Korea.

The great leader President Kim Il-song founded the newspaper SAENAL at the dawn of the Korean revolution, thus making a beginning of church-based publications for young people. And on May 5, 1946, after the liberation of the country, he launched SONYON SINMUN for school children, the powerful ideological weapon which would greatly contribute to bringing up the younger generation to be reliable pillars of the Korean revolution.

The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, attaching great importance to the role of juvenile publications in carrying out the revolutionary cause, gave flawless answers to all problems arising in editing the newspaper and has energetically led it.

The newspaper SONYON SINMUN has greatly contributed to successfully succeeding to the generation of the Korean revolution by educating the younger generation in revolutionary idea under the wise guidance of the party and the leader over the past 50 years.

A meeting was held on Saturday to mark the 50th anniversary of SONYON SINMUN.

Present there were secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Chung-nin, first secretary of the C.C., the Kim Il-song Socialist Youth League Choe Yong-hae, officials concerned, reporters and editors of the Kumsong Youth Publishing House, officials in charge of juvenile affairs, and school children.

South Korea

ROK: DPRK-U.S. MIA Talks May Discuss 4-Way Talks

SK0405011896 *Seoul YONHAP in English*
0102 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, May 3 (YONHAP) — The second round of North Korean-U.S. negotiations for repatriating the remains of American soldiers killed during the Korean war will be held here Saturday.

The U.S. Defense Department made a brief announcement indicating that negotiations will only deal with the repatriation of remains, but sources here did not rule out the possibility that the two nations might also discuss

the "four-party meeting," which has been proposed by the South Korean and U.S. presidents last month for permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

James Wald, deputy assistant secretary of defense for prisoners of war and missing in action affairs, will lead the U.S. delegation while Kim Byong-hong, International Bureau director of the Foreign Ministry will head the North Korean side.

Discussions are expected to be about U.S. compensation for North Korea's exhumation of the remains of American soldiers killed during the 1950-53 Korean war and their repatriation, and the possibility of organizing a joint U.S.-North Korean team to find the remains of soldiers still unaccounted for.

In the first round of negotiations in Hawaii last January, North Korea demanded that the United States pay 4 million dollars for the remains of 162 American soldiers who had been repatriated in 1993 and 1994, but U.S. negotiators offered to pay 1 million dollars.

North Korea also said that forming a joint MIA search team would be possible only after a North Korean-U.S. peace treaty is signed to replace the current Armistice Agreement.

ROK: U.S.-DPRK Talks on Repatriation of Remains Begin

SK0605020696 *Seoul YONHAP in English*
0014 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, May 5 (YONHAP) — The United States and North Korea are to resume talks here Monday to discuss compensation for the repatriation of remains of American servicemen killed in action during the 1950-1953 Korean war and the formation of a joint survey team for the exhumation of remains.

In their first-day meeting Saturday, the two sides discussed the agenda and put forth their basic positions.

Although the venue is kept confidential by both sides, it has been confirmed that the negotiations are being held at Grand Hyatt Hotel in downtown New York.

Chief North Korean delegate to the talks, Kim Pyong-hong, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's International Affairs Bureau, told YONHAP News Agency in a telephone interview Sunday, "The first-day of negotiations began at 9 am and ended at about 1 pm."

The delegations exchanged greetings and presented their basic stance in the first session, Kim said. He declined, however, to answer questions concerning the substance, nature or prospects of the negotiations.

The second round of the remains negotiations, which will last until Tuesday, came four months after the unsuccessful first round held last January in Hawaii.

ROK: Article Assesses U.S. 25-Point Plan To Ease Sanctions on DPRK

SK0305145196 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
3 May 96 p 3

[Article by Pae Myong-pok]

[FBIS Summary] The U.S. 25-point plan on relaxing economic sanctions against North Korea is far from North Korea's expectation. Direct investments by U.S. companies and export credits are still banned, and the freeze on North Korean assets in the United States is still in effect. "The goal of the 25-point plan seems to be to prepare the ground for North Korea's soft-landing."

When the 25-point plan will come into effect depends on North Korea's attitude at the upcoming talks on the remains of U.S. soldiers and at the missile talks. North Korea's acceptance of four-party talks will expedite it.

The official U.S. position is not to link the four-party talks with the relaxation of economic sanctions, but North Korea's acceptance of the four-party talks would certainly improve U.S.-North Korea relations. This is why observers believe North Korea will not be able to refuse the four-party talks proposal. The ROK Government reportedly gave the nod to the 25-point plan.

The United States has over 100 regulations restricting North Korea's activities. The U.S. Administration may decide to remove most of the regulations. The Clinton administration may use flexibility in lifting them. The United States appears to have grouped the over-100 regulations into several phases, and plans to use the relaxation to induce North Korea's changes.

When the 25 points of the sanctions are lifted, the United States will still have strong sanction measures that can be effectively used to negotiate with North Korea.

ROK Daily Views Results of DPRK Officials' U.S. Visit

SK0405074196 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
4 May 96 p 3

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Kil Chong-u: "What Have Successive Visits to the United States by North Korean Officials Left?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the past two weeks, rare visitors were in Washington, amid the great interest of the people. These visitors were entourage led by Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of North Korea's

External Economic Committee, and Yi Chong-hyok, vice chairman of the Asia-Pacific Peace Committee.

While these vice minister-level North Korean officials led entourage to the United States for the official purpose of attending academic conferences in Washington and Atlanta, respectively, they made the best use of their visits by meeting not only with important figures in the U.S. Administration and Congress, but also with experts exercising direct or indirect influence over U.S. policy on North Korea. Pursuing a basic policy of embracing North Korea [taebuk poyong chongchaek], the United States willingly issued visas to them, and has raised no objection to contacts in Washington.

However, in an effort to describe the meetings with North Korean officials as "unofficial," the United States designated the Carnegie International Peace Foundation and places other than the U.S. State Department as the venue for meetings between North Korean and U.S. Administration officials.

The greatest change is not in the number of contacts between North Korean and U.S. officials, nor in how the meetings were formulated, but in the substance of the meetings.

For the first time, both the United States and North Korea had the opportunity to directly voice their views and opinions concerning various problems that have served as stumbling blocks in the past for improving their mutual relations, and they were able to frankly discuss these problems.

In particular, U.S. officials who met with the North Korean delegations emphatically point out the change in the attitude of North Korean officials. We should pay attention to this change.

First of all, U.S. officials believe North Korea's manner of approaching the United States has changed. They say North Korean officials refrained from directly denouncing South Korea, frankly admitted to North Korea's economic difficulties, and thus expressed a clear willingness to join the international community.

Government officials from the U.S. side who attended unofficial meetings with North Korean delegates unanimously stated "they were very impressed with the sincere, frank, and candid attitude of the North Korean side."

A certain U.S. official stated that "although the remarks of one or two North Korean officials may not represent the position of North Korea's leadership, their attitude was so rational and sincere that their remarks could hardly be ignored unilaterally, and in fact, caused the United States to be flustered over how to respond."

Discussions between the United States and North Korea were also very extensive and diverse. Issues such as the four-way talks proposal, the lifting of U.S. economic sanctions against North Korea, the conclusion of a tentative DPRK-U.S. peace agreement, North Korea's development and export of missiles; the repatriation of the remains of U.S. soldiers, and the resumption of North-South dialogue were discussed.

The fact that Vice Chairman Yi Chong-hyok contacted CNN and ABC-TV also attracts our attention, since North Korea is believed to be considering appropriate measures for using U.S. mass media to attain its goals in approaching the United States.

There are differences even within the U.S. Administration over the actual implementation of North Korean policy. Differences also exist between working-level officials and high-ranking policy makers in their perception of North Korea.

Nevertheless, the recent U.S. visits by North Korean officials have been an occasion for clear progress in mutual understanding between North Korea and the United States and have been conducive to improving relations between the two countries.

ROK: Kwangju Mayor Requests U.S. State Department Document on Uprising
SK0405015396 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 May 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. State Department archives has expressed a willingness to send to the Kwangju municipal government a copy of a declassified document on the pro-democracy civil uprising in Kwangju in May 1980.

In a facsimile reply dated April 19, Rosemary Melendy, chief of the Office of Freedom of Information, Privacy and Classification, said that she was ready to send the 3,701-page document.

Melendy said it costs \$900.25 to duplicate and mail the documents to the Kwangju city government, adding that the city would not be charged if it confirms that the documents will be open for public access.

The U.S. official was replying to a message of April 10 sent by Kwangju's Mayor, Song Un-chong, who asked whether the city could obtain a copy of the declassified document.

Song sent another facsimile message Thursday to Washington, requesting that Melendy send a copy of the declassified documents to his city, promising that the material will be for public perusal.

More than 200 people were killed in the suppression of the 10-day civil uprising by martial law forces 16 years ago. Former President Chon Tu-hwan, who was at that time military strongman, is being tried on his role in the bloody suppression. His seventh trial session is scheduled for Monday.

ROK: U.S. Helicopter Damages Private Property
SK0405043796 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 4 May 96 p 21

[Report by Kyong Tae-yong from Suwon]

[FBIS Translated Text] At around 1045 [0145 GMT] on the morning of 3 May, a U.S. ambulance UH60 helicopter (chief pilot: Captain Mcleely) [name as transliterated] from an unidentified U.S. unit, damaged the slate-roofs and glass windows of 10 civilian houses, including that of Kim Tan-sik, (60), while making a low-altitude flight in the sky above Angjong-ri, Paengsong-up, Pyongtaek, Kyonggi Province. The result was property damage totalling 2.6 million won. The problems resulted from the U.S. helicopter creating a strong wind while flying 75 meters above the village for the purpose of watching black-marketing by families of U.S. soldiers stationed in the ROK. The citizens whose properties were damaged decided to demand compensation from the U.S. Army for the damage.

ROK Plans To Purchase U.S. Weapons Through 2001 Reported
SK0405104896 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 4 May 96 p 2

[Report by Kim Yong-il in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. defense industry has estimated that its arms exports to the ROK from 1997 to 2001 will amount from \$5.1 billion to \$6.7 billion.

The American Chamber of Commerce in the ROK held a news conference in Washington on 2 May, revealing the ROK plan to purchase early warning planes, reconnaissance planes, attack helicopters, and other weapons.

The major items are early warning planes and control planes, whose sales are estimated to be in the range of \$400 million to \$2 billion. The sale of destroyers and multi-running rocket system is estimated at \$900 million.

ROK, Japan, U.S. To Refrain From 'Appeasement Steps' for DPRK

SK0605071796 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean
6 May 96 p 1

[Report by Yi Mok-hui]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 5 May that during recent consultations through a diplomatic channel, the governments of the ROK, the United States, and Japan reached an internal agreement to refrain from taking appeasement steps toward North Korea, including expansion of economic cooperation, until North Korea responds to the four-way talks.

The ROK, the United States, and Japan are planning to make clear during a three-day policy consultation meeting to be held on Cheju Island beginning 13 May that unless North Korea clarifies its position toward the four-way talks in the near future, they will not take any specific appeasement steps toward North Korea.

It has been learned that the appeasement steps, which the three nations have agreed to withhold, include the issue of resuming negotiations on establishing diplomatic relations between North Korea and Japan, and rice aid to North Korea.

A relevant high-ranking government official on 5 May stated that "the government is making every effort to make North Korea respond to the four-way talks. But it is not appropriate to induce North Korea through appeasement steps. The ROK Government has explicitly informed the U.S. and Japanese Governments that we have no economic cooperation measures to offer to North Korea before it responds to the four-way talks."

The official pointed out that "the ROK believes the U.S. side will not unilaterally lift economic sanctions against North Korea by going against our intentions. The Japanese Government also informed us that negotiations on establishing diplomatic relations with North Korea will not resume before North Korea responds to the four-way talks."

Another government official stated that "the North Korean officials who sounded out the true intent of the four-way talks in every way by visiting New York last week have now returned to Pyongyang. Therefore, it is likely North Korea will soon make clear its position toward the four-way talks. However, if the response from the North Korean side is delayed, the ROK-U.S.-Japan assistant minister-level policy consultation meeting to be held on 13 May will confirm the joint cooperative system of the three nations concerning North Korean issues."

ROK Daily Urges Separating DPRK Aid Issue From 4-Way Talks

SK0405122396 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN
in Korean 4 May 96 p 3

[Editorial: "Are We Going To Remain as On-Lookers Over the Miserable Situation of North Korea?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Through a report by current-affairs weekly HANGYORE-21 correspondent Yi Chung-yol, who recently visited North Korea, we have learned once again about the wretched plight the North Korean compatriots are experiencing. After a 12-day visit to North Korea in April as a member of a cultural tourist group of Koreans residing in the United States, Yi contributed a four-installment travelogue to HANGYORE SINMUN and a report to HANGYORE-21, testifying to the miserable North Korean food situation, which turns out to be more serious than expected. According to Yi's report, a North Korean adult receives a mere 3 kg of food a month, and some areas have not been able to give people even this small amount of food rations for several months. Yi reported he had seen North Korean housewives peeling trees as if they barely managed to stay alive with the aid of roots and bark, and that Kim Il-song University is closed because it cannot afford to provide meals to its boarding students.

The North Korean food crisis may not sound new. It has not been a short time since North Korea, which had tried to keep its self-esteem high under any difficult situation, began to ask for help from the international community, swallowing its pride. In a roundabout way, North Korea has even asked many times for help from South Korea, which it considers its rival in confrontation and competition. This is why some people regard the remarks by Yi Chong-hyok, vice chairman of North Korea's Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, that "last year's flood damage is the largest in 100 years" as harping on the same string.

The government, which proposed the four-way talks along with the United States, appears to be trying to induce North Korea to accept the proposal. The government has hurriedly given its approval to businessmen concerned to carry out economic cooperation with North Korea, which it seemed to have intentionally postponed, because North Korea is particularly interested in it. The government also indirectly expressed its willingness to not only expand inter-Korean economic cooperation, but also to provide food aid to North Korea if it accepts the proposal for four-way talks. It appears as if the government had frozen all relations with North Korea in a bid to hold four-way talks and had mapped out a plan to

resolve difficult South-North issues as it intends once the talks are held.

We pay attention to the fact that the ROK and U.S. presidents proposed the four-way talks without any condition and hope the talks will not be used as a condition for resolving South-North issues. In particular, the food aid issue is a matter that should be examined at a humanitarian level, and it is not proper to decide whether to provide food aid to North Korea by linking it to the four-way talks proposal. It is shameful that we, fellow countrymen of North Koreans, remain on-lookers of the North Korean food crisis. This will become a blot on Korean national history. We happen to hear the news that the safety work of sealing spent nuclear fuel rods in steel containers has begun in North Korea, under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This shows that North Korea is sincerely implementing its promise to freeze its nuclear development program.

ROK: DPRK Reportedly Reviewing Dual System Plan for 4-Way Talks

SK0605011596 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network
in Korean 0000 GMT 6 May 96

[Report by correspondent Yi Chong-su from Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that North Korea is reviewing a plan to accept the four-way talks proposal while demanding the talk's method of operation be a dual system — exclusive talks [tandok hoetam] between the United States and North Korea and exclusive talks between North and South Korea. North Korea is also working to deal with agenda items in a comprehensive manner.

Pak Han-sik, a Georgia University professor who hosted a seminar on the Korean Peninsula in Atlanta and arranged the North Korean delegation's visit to Washington, said that judging from conversations exchanged between Yi Chong-hyok, vice chairman of North Korea's Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, and high-ranking U.S. Government officials and relevant officials in the U.S. Congress, North Korea seems to have leaned about 80 percent toward accepting the four-way talks.

However, concerning the method of operation of the four-way talks, Professor Pak pointed out that North Korea is reviewing the plan to operate the four-way talks according to a dual system. In other words, the issue of U.S. Forces in Korea should be dealt with through exclusive U.S.-North Korea talks, North-South military issues through exclusive talks between North and South Korea, and all these issues should be dealt with as a package deal at the four-way talks.

ROK: DPRK's Kim Yong-nam, PRC Official Discuss 4-Way Talks

SK0405041096 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
4 May 96 p 2

[Report by Pak Chae-kyun]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 3 May that Kim Yong-nam, North Korea's vice premier and foreign minister, secretly met with Chen Jian, Chinese assistant foreign minister and spokesman for the PRC Foreign Ministry, for about two hours on 27 April to discuss the four-way talks.

Vice Premier Kim is the highest North Korean official contacted by the United States and China in connection with the four-way talks.

In particular, their contact that day signifies the first confirmation that North Korea-PRC contacts are actually taking place, in addition to North Korean-U.S. contacts between the United States and Han Song-yol, councilor at the DPRK mission to the United Nations; Kim Chong-u, chairman of the DPRK Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation; and Yi Chong-hyok, vice chairman of the DPRK Asian-Pacific Committee. There has also been a rumor that secret North-South contacts are occurring in Beijing. Thus, the North Korean-PRC contact has attracted people's attention.

The North Korean-PRC contact on 27 April took place at the Beijing Airport and lasted about two hours; it was held at the direction of Qian Qichen, PRC vice premier and foreign minister. Kim Yong-nam's stopover in Beijing on his way to the Middle East provided the opportunity for the talks, whose purpose was to find out the exact intention of the North Korean side toward the four-way talks.

However, it has been learned that during the talks that day, Vice Premier Kim Yong-nam merely reiterated North Korea's existing position that "North Korea is presently reviewing and examining the background from which the U.S. side proposed the four-way talks." As such, he made no mention of whether the four-way talks proposal will be accepted.

In a report sent to the Foreign Ministry, the ROK embassy in the PRC said that the Chinese side believes that in view of Vice Premier Kim Yong-nam's attitude, North Korea intends to exclude China from the four-way talks.

ROK: Hong Kong Reportedly Decides To Give Flood Aid to DPRK

SK0305114796 Seoul YONHAP in English
1141 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hong Kong, May 3 (YON-AHP) — The Hong Kong Government has formally decided to provide 1,500,000 Hong Kong dollars to North Korea to help the communist country rehabilitate flood damage, Hong Kong officials said Friday.

They said the decision was made last week by the disaster relief fund advisory committee of the Hong Kong Government.

"The money will be remitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva shortly for use as a flood relief fund for North Korea," a Hong Kong Red Cross official said.

ROK: PRC To Give 200,000 Tons of Rice Aid to DPRK This Year

SK0405011096 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo
WWW in English 1217 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chinese Government gave North Korea 1 million tons of rice, beginning of last year, it was announced by a government official on Friday. [sentence as published] According to the same source, China will supply an additional 200,000 tons this year. The rice shipments were divided over the past two years, with 500,000 tons per year. One half of the rice was donated to North Korea, and the remaining half was exchanged with goods. [all figures as published]

If Kim Chong-il succeeds Kim Il-song's position, China may supply additional rice as a congratulatory gesture, the source added.

ROK Government 'Uneasy' About PRC Rice Aid to DPRK

SK0505055296 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
5 May 96 p 5

[Report by Ku Song-sin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government is feeling uneasy about China's rice aid to North Korea. Most of all, the government is having trouble dealing with the issue, because details of China's rice aid are not clearly known. This stems from China's unique diplomatic practices toward North Korea. China values honor. Taking into account of the stance of North Korea, which suffered flood damage, China is keeping its rice assistance and the amount of aid a secret.

What makes it difficult for the government to engage in active diplomacy toward China is that China's

assistance is for its own security. In the event that North Korea's food crisis worsens and, as a result, many refugees cross the border between North Korea and China, it could cause unrest in China's border areas. Also, if China continues to ignore the food crisis in North Korea, it will have to pay an expensive political and economic price later. To prevent this, China is giving North Korea just enough rice to save the North Korean people from starvation.

Consequently, the government is in an awkward position, where it cannot insist only on its own stand because the aid is linked to Chinese security issues. Also, there is a possibility that if the government continues to bring this issue up with China, it may produce a boomerang effect, moving North Korea-PRC relations closer.

A pertinent government official has said: "Calling on China to restrain its food aid to North Korea is virtually the same as someone asking us to send the U.S. troops home."

The government has established a principle that it is not opposed to foreign countries giving aid to North Korea. Nonetheless, it stresses it would be better if the ROK is aware of what is going on inside North Korea and if transparency in food distribution is guaranteed. This government stance is a just one, because there is a chance that the food aid could be diverted to the DPRK military.

Another pertinent government official has said: "The government is still waiting for China to tell its side of the story for the sake of our government's position."

ROK, PRC Fail To Narrow Gap on Fishing Boundaries

SK0405081496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0737 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 4 (YONHAP) — South Korea and China Saturday failed to narrow differences over where to set boundaries of fishing zones, with Seoul demanding a median line until the two reach an agreement and Beijing insisting on free operations by its fishing boats in seas outside South Korea's 12-mile territorial waters, a Foreign Ministry official said.

During the two-day fishery talks held in Seoul from Friday, the Chinese side demanded that the waters outside of each other's territorial waters be left a zone subject to negotiations, said Deputy Director General Yi Won-hyong of the ministry's Asia-Pacific Affairs Bureau who represented Seoul at the talks.

Yi said that the Chinese position means that Chinese fishing boats should continue to be allowed to operate

in waters outside of South Korea's 12-nautical-mile territorial waters.

"China has yet to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and they want to start negotiations on the boundaries of fishing zones after they ratify the convention and announce a 200-nautical-mile economic exclusive zone (EEZ) probably in June," Yi said.

South Korea meanwhile demanded that the concept of the median line advocated by the convention should be honored until the two sides reach an agreement on the EEZ boundaries under the UN convention.

The two sides, however, reached an agreement that they hold a meeting of marine resources experts in June to discuss issues related to management and protection of marine resources, according to Yi.

The two also agreed that they extend by another two years the validity of the agreement on marine accidents involving fishing boats. The agreement was signed in 1994 and expires in June.

Seoul and Beijing also agreed that fishery officials and maritime police of the two countries have routine meetings to seek ways for orderly fishing and efficient handling of sea accidents.

Briefing reporters on the outcome of the fishing talks, Yi said that "the talks were useful in that the two sides reached a broad understanding that a bilateral fishery agreement should be signed in the spirit of honoring the UN convention."

A next round of fishery talks will be held in Beijing during the latter half of the year, Yi said, adding that the exact timing and venue will be decided through diplomatic channels later.

ROK: Japan Reportedly Cancels DPRK Officials' Visits

SK0505050596 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
5 May 96 p 1

[Report by correspondents No Chae-hyon and Kim Chin-luk from Tokyo]

[FBIS Translated Text] In giving priority to realizing the proposal for four-way talks, Japan has expressed disapproval of visits to Japan by important North Korean officials. As a result, their visits have been canceled or postponed indefinitely. Japan's official position is that the four-way talks are not linked to North Korea-Japan negotiations on establishing diplomatic relations. However, sources have revealed that Japan has already used political channels to internally inform North Korean officials who wished to visit Japan this month about its

will to refuse their visits, emphasizing that "the timing is not right."

Japan initially planned to invite Yi Chong-hyok — the vice chairman of North Korea's Asia-Pacific Peace Committee who is now visiting the United States — via an invitation from the Japan Social Democratic Party to discuss the issue of resuming negotiations for diplomatic relations.

Japan also intended to invite Kim Yong-sun, a Workers Party secretary, to have government-level discussions in June concerning resuming negotiations.

A relevant Japanese Government official has said that "currently Japan has no present to offer North Korean officials, even if they come. Now is the time to pay attention only to the four-way talks." Thus, he suggested that progress in the four-way talks is a precondition for resuming negotiations.

This being the case, Yi Chong-hyok, now on a visit to the United States, has canceled his plan to visit Japan. Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of North Korea's External Economic Committee, who is on his way home from a visit to the United States, stayed overnight near Narita Airport — a stopover place — on 29 April without having any contact with Japanese Government officials.

ROK Ministry Denies Reports of Japan-DPRK Normalization Talks

SK0605061996 Seoul YONHAP in English
0611 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP) — The Foreign Ministry denied reports Monday that counsellor-level diplomats from North Korea and Japan met in Beijing last April to discuss the resumption of normalization talks.

"We've contacted the Japanese Foreign Ministry on the issue and the Japanese Foreign Ministry informed us that there has been no such contact between Japan and North Korea," according to a statement released by the South Korean Foreign Ministry.

Japan's ASAHI SHIMBUN reported in its Monday edition that counsellor-level officials from Tokyo and Pyongyang met in Beijing last April to discuss the normalization issue, quoting Pyongyang's Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam.

ROK: Kim Chong-il Reportedly To Take Office After Jul

SK0603021296 Seoul YONHAP in English
0141 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, May 6 (YONHAP) — Kim Chong-il, North Korea's de facto leader, has decided to take office as state president and general secretary of the Workers' Party sometime after the third anniversary of his father Kim Il-song's death, a Japanese newspaper reported Monday.

ASAHI SHIMBUN quoted Mun Myong-cha, chief editor of U.S. Asia News, a news agency in the United States, as saying that she has heard from a senior North Korean official that Kim Chong-il himself said he would take the post of general secretary sometime after July 1997.

Mun had an exclusive interview with Kim Yong-nam, North Korean foreign minister, on April 27, and the U.S. Asia News reported the interview on May 5.

The news agency reported that North Korea is studying the "four-party meeting," proposed by the South Korean and U.S. presidents last month as a way to establish a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

Kim Yong-nam reportedly said in the interview that he does not know if the "four-party meeting" is a starting point for an ultimate peace agreement or if it is related to the nonaggression agreement signed in 1991 between Seoul and Pyongyang.

Kim Chong-il was quoted by Mun as having said, "We need to study what the intention of the United States is."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Kim disclosed that North Korea and Japan had a councillor-level contact in Beijing in late April to discuss resumption of negotiations for normalization of the bilateral diplomatic relations.

About the North Korean-U.S. relations, Washington has insisted that North Korea allow U.S. Government officials to come and go through Panmunjom truce village, as a condition for an exchange of liaison offices between Washington and Pyongyang, Mun said.

ROK: DPRK 'Intensifying' Internal Control

SK0603035296 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean
6 May 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that while exerting all its efforts to improve relations with the United States and Japan externally, recently North Korea has been intensifying internal control centering around the Ministry of People's Armed Forces.

This is being viewed as a process to prevent agitation within the system prior to holding a series of contacts with the United States and making a decision on the four-way talks jointly presented by the ROK and the United States.

In this connection, a high-ranking government official revealed the following on 5 May: "It has been confirmed that control over exit from and entry to Pyongyang, which the Ministry of Public Security formerly was in charge of, is now under the Ministry of People's Armed Forces. This is understood as an effort to intensify internal control prior to making important external decisions."

This official also said: "Right after Kim Il-song's death in 1994, the border garrison was incorporated into the Ministry of People's Armed Forces. Also recently, the munitions industry, part of the country's secondary industry, was placed under the complete control of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces. Information has been obtained that three counties, including Hoechang County, South Pyongan Province, which were under the control of the Administration Council have been placed under the direct control of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces."

ROK: DPRK's Armed Incursions Into DMZ Analyzed

SK0605095496 Seoul VANTAGE POINT in English
Apr 96 Vol. XIX No. 4 p 12-16

[Unattributed analysis: "North Korea Takes Provocative Action To Kill Truce Agreement" — passages within slantlines published in a box that separates it from the rest of the text]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Heavily Armed Troops in Truce Village

The South Korean government as well as the United Nations Command (UNC) in Seoul were shocked and went on full alert April 5 when the North Korean army installed an mortar piece in the truce village of Panmunjom and sent more than 100 troops armed with heavy weapons into the buffer zone, violating the 43-year-old truce agreement on the Korean peninsula. They withdrew from the area after two and a half hours. But the heavily armed North Korean troops returned there the next day and again on April 7. This time their number doubled. Under the armistice agreement, a limited number of troops armed only with handguns are allowed into Panmunjom with the approval of the Military Armistice Commission set up to supervise violations of the truce agreement. Pyongyang's action came one day after a statement issued by the so-called

"Representative Office of the North Korean People's Army at Panmunjom." The statement said the North Korean army will no longer abide by the regulations on the maintenance and management of the truce line and the demilitarized zone.

Pyongyang's move to fan a war mood was followed by rallies of students and young laborers in Pyongyang and other North Korean cities, who volunteered to join the army. The demonstration in Pyongyang was staged in front of a monument set up to celebrate its self-claimed "victory in the war for the liberation of the fatherland," namely, the Korean War. A worker, Pak Hyon-su, told the participants that a war is at hand, claiming, "The U.S. imperialists and their South Korean puppets are triggering a war." A college student, Choe Sung-yop, expressed his resolution to "shatter the enemy and unify the fatherland this time."

'On the Eve of War'

Does the Pyongyang's move really herald its intention to start another war against South Korea, as hinted by a North Korean general a few days earlier? Vice Marshal Kim Kwang-chin, first vice minister of people's armed forces, said March 29 in a statement, "A war on the peninsula is a matter of time." Both Seoul and Washington, however, believe that North Korea can hardly start an all-out war because of its extremely adverse economic condition and its obsolete weapons, although they do not deny the possibility of the North's limited armed provocations. If not, what is the Pyongyang action aimed at?

A majority of Pyongyang watchers in Seoul believe the war mood in North Korea is targeted at its citizens, who are uneasy because of the economic difficulties, highlighted by serious food shortages, and the persisting political instability since the abrupt death of Kim Il-song in July 1994. "It thus seeks to unite the people through shock therapy," says a watcher. Kim Chong-il, who had been groomed to be the undisputable successor to his father Kim Il-song for more than 20 years, has yet to occupy the top offices of the North Korean Communist regime, while North Korea has been appealing for foreign aid in recent months, virtually giving up its guiding principle of *chuche*, which means self-reliance or self-identity.

Pressing Washington for a Peace Treaty

But some other watchers say the North Korean move is designed to press Washington to sign a peace treaty with Pyongyang by actually destroying the armistice agreement. They point to the fact that the North Korean action came after the United States rejected its proposal for a tentative Pyongyang-Washington peace treaty one

and a half months earlier. The intrusion of heavily armed North Korean troops was also preceded by a March 8 statement of the "Representative Office of the People's Army at Panmunjom," which said the North Korean army will take a decisive step to replace the truce agreement with a peace treaty.

Noteworthy is Pyongyang's double-pronged strategy under which it is campaigning to dismantle the truce agreement and simultaneously to promote the unity of all Koreans, while staying away from talks with the Seoul government. In fact, however, Pyongyang's campaign for a peace treaty, aimed at bringing about the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea, is a program to unify Korea under the principle of no foreign interference, even if unification requires armed conflicts between the divided halves of Korea. In this context, North Korea renewed its unification drive under its half-a-century-old formula, in a "joint meeting of its political parties and social and other institutions" held Jan. 31 this year.

The renewed unification campaign is symbolized by Pyongyang's active approach to the United States, while intensifying its hostile stand against South Korea. This Pyongyang's posture was confirmed by an editorial March 28 in NODONG SINMUN, organ of the Workers' Party. The editorial criticized the U.S. call for inter-Korean talks as an interference in internal affairs of a foreign country. As for the Seoul-Pyongyang talks, North Korea continues to insist that it will not hold government-level meetings with South Korea unless Seoul repeals the anti-Communist National Security Law, releases South Koreans arrested for violation of the law, and dismantles the National Security Planning Agency, whose main job is to investigate Communist activities against South Korea.

Staying Away From Talks with Seoul

The true nature of Pyongyang's unification strategy was revealed when North Korea on March 20 proposed that another rice meeting be held in Beijing one week later. But Pyongyang's chief delegate to the meeting, Chon Kum-chol, is not a government official. Chon is an advisor to the Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, a non-governmental office used for staging propaganda or for exploring programs with foreign countries in the region. His South Korean counterpart in the rice talks as proposed by the North was Seoul's chief delegate to rice talks last year, Yi Sok-cha, who was then vice minister of finance and economy and now is minister of transportation and communications. Unlike last year, however, the Seoul government rejected the Pyongyang's bid and said that it wants a government-level meeting to discuss Seoul's additional rice aid to

North Korea, while asking the North to stop its diatribe against the South if it wants talks with Seoul. "The proposal for resuming rice talks was probably designed to tell the United States that North Korea wanted talks with South Korea, but Seoul rejected it," says an analyst in Seoul. Washington continued to urge Pyongyang to hold meetings with Seoul first if North Korea hopes for improved relations with the United States, under a position that a peace treaty is a matter for Koreans themselves.

Shaky Political Leadership in Pyongyang

Pyongyang's bid for a peace treaty with Washington dates back to 1974. In a letter adopted by the Supreme People's Assembly, the North Korean version of a parliament, it made the proposal on March 25 that year, one year after the United States reached a peace agreement with North Vietnam and left South Vietnam allowing the Communists in Hanoi to overrun the anti-Communists in Saigon and unify Vietnam.

Pyongyang's radical action of fanning a war mood on the Korean peninsula probably evinces a situation of unstable political leadership in Pyongyang. Neither Moscow nor Beijing sides with the North Korean move to nullify the truce agreement. And a war mood will adversely affect Pyongyang's efforts to attract foreign capital, which is essential to fueling the sagging North Korean economy. "A war mood will be effective only temporarily in easing the complaints of the hungry North Koreans, who are accustomed to living in a society resembling a military compound," says a North Korea watcher here.

Is Kim's dynastic regime on the eve of collapse, as predicted recently by the UNC Commander Gen. Gary Luck? "North Korea will disintegrate, possibly in very short order," the U.S. general said March 28, adding that the only question is whether it would be by implosion or explosion. A UNC paper foresees seven phases to be undergone by North Korea before its collapse: those of resource depletion, prioritization, local independence, suppression, resistance, fracture and leadership realignment.

Government officials and North Korea watchers in Seoul alike predict North Korea will most likely take more radical steps to kill the truce agreement, which could touch off armed conflicts between the South and the North and lead to a war, though limited in scale. "What will Pyongyang gain in a war?" sighs a shopkeeper in Seoul. "Are they crazy?"

/Pyongyang Is in Deep Thought To Determine Its Position on the Bid for Four-Way Talks

North Korea came up April 18 with an unusually swift response to a Seoul-Washington proposal for four-way talks to settle peace on the Korean Peninsula, but it said it was examining the idea of four-nation talks to see "whether it is feasible." Pyongyang expressed its response barely two days after the South Korean and U.S. presidents jointly made the bid at the end of their meeting on Cheju Island of South Korea. "We are now examining the proposal of the U.S. side to see whether it seeks another purpose and whether it is feasible," a spokesman of the North Korean Foreign Ministry said in an interview with the official (North) Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

In proposing the quadruple talks, South Korean President Kim Yong-sam said, "We can't expect the North to make a positive response tomorrow, but it will have no choice but to accept the proposal in the long run." Kim's position was shared by U.S. President Bill Clinton. "I would caution that we should not expect an immediate, positive response," he said.

"We are not yet certain whether the proposal for quadrilateral talks is aimed at concluding a genuine peace agreement between the signatories to the Korean Armistice Agreement," said the state-run KCNA report, which is equivalent to a statement of Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry, adding, "As for the matter of preserving peace on the Korean Peninsula, it should be discussed and decided on by North Korea and the United States, signatories to the armistice agreement. [quotation marks as published]"

South Korean officials said they were encouraged by the North Korean statement indicating Pyongyang's careful consideration on its reaction to the offer, which could also involve Russia, Japan and the United Nations. Radio Russia on April 18 said that Moscow was informed the four-way talks in advance both by Seoul and Washington. The Moscow report said there was a gap in positions on peace issue in the Korean Peninsula between Russia and North Korea when they met in Pyongyang April 11-12 to discuss economic and technological cooperation between them.

A North Korea watcher, who was reluctant to be identified, said, "There, of course, will come talks in some form or other." He continued, "But the Seoul government is required to be coherent and stronger in dealing with the North Korean Communists."/

ROK Government Warns Businesses Against Overeagerness Toward DPRK

SK0605022696 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
6 May 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chongwadae [presidential offices] is apparently at a loss about the fuss among the nation's business circles triggered by the government's recent go-ahead to three private enterprises to launch economic cooperation projects in North Korea.

Senior North Korea policymakers at the presidential office cautioned against interpreting the approval of the three projects as the government's overt attempt to lure the North into accepting the South's proposal for the four-nation talks.

"You don't have to make far-fetched assumptions over the matter because raising a big fuss will not help in materializing the four-way talks," said Yu Chong-ha, senior presidential secretary for foreign affairs and national security, in a briefing to reporters recently.

Yu cautioned against giving the North the impression that the South is begging it to accept the four-nation talks offer.

"As you know, we've learned precious lessons in the past 50 years of dealing with North Korea. The lesson is that we always suffered when we were in a big rush," Yu said.

Yu emphasized the need for the South to firmly stick to the principle of the four-way meeting aimed at building a new peace regime on the Korean Peninsula that will replace the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement. The peace meeting, to be participated in by South and North Korea, the U.S. and China, was jointly proposed by President Kim Yong-sam and U.S. President Bill Clinton in their summit on Cheju Island April 16.

According to Yu, the Unification Ministry's approval of the three economic projects has long been overdue. Seven other such projects are also waiting for ministry approval.

The three projects are the construction of a telephone network in the Najin-Sonbong Free Trade Area by Samsung, a garment joint venture in Nampo by Daewoo and mineral water development in Mt. Kumgang by Taechang.

"It's wrong to think that the approval is an initial step intended to set off an economic cooperation rush toward the North," the senior secretary said.

Yu said the three South-proposed preconditions for inter-Korean dialogue are still effective.

The preconditions forwarded in the last Beijing rice talks stipulate that inter-Korean dialogue be conducted by responsible authorities; the North stop tirades against South Korean leaders; and the talks be held at a site on the Korean Peninsula, preferably in the truce village of Panmunjom.

Unlike the North Korean nuclear issue, the security advisor said that both Seoul and Washington have little reason to press for early realization of the four-nation talks.

"All we have to do is wait patiently until the North responds positively to our offer," Yu said. "If we make haste, the chances for the four-way talks will get more remote."

Yu said the ministry approval was made merely to show the South's good intentions to the North. "That's all. There is no need to attach any more significance to the ministry approval."

Yu said there will be no additional steps for the time being as far as economic cooperation with the North is concerned.

ROK: Foreign Minister Kong Discusses Tensions With DPRK

AU0605134996 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German
6 May 96 p 4

[Interview with South Korean Foreign Minister Kong No-myong by Peter Krotky in Vienna; date not given: "Pyongyang Wants to Create Rift Between the United States and South Korea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Krotky] What is really behind North Korea's recent provocations on the border with the South?

[Kong No-myong] Ever since North Korea withdrew from the Armistice Commission, it has tried to annul the 1953 ceasefire agreement. In March 1994, North Korea threatened the Polish delegation — the last one among the so-called group of neutral states that was on their side — that it would turn off its water and electricity supplies to make them withdraw. This year, North Korea finally declared that it no longer wants to adhere to the ceasefire agreement. That means that the recent violations of the demilitarized zone are not isolated incidents, but part of a policy that has been going on for years.

[Krotky] What goal does Pyongyang want to achieve with that?

[Kong No-myong] The operations are to include the United States in the conflict and create a rift between

Seoul and Washington. The North wants direct negotiations with Washington.

[Krotky] What is so bad about that?

[Kong No-myong] What would you say, if Austria were divided into a northern and a southern part and the two parts had fought each other for years because of ideological differences? Imagine that a comparatively small number of Italian troops are stationed in the south, because they are allies of the south. Would you accept the north of Austria negotiating peace with the Italians?

[Krotky] That sounds obvious...

[Kong No-myong] The 250-kilometer border is defended by the South Korean Army. The U.S. forces in South Korea are only 37,000 strong, and they stay in the background. But the North only wants to negotiate with the United States. Pyongyang wants to create a rift between the United States and South Korea. That is why we are against direct contact between the North and Washington. Peace is a question that only concerns the two Koreas. The North should negotiate with us.

[Krotky] A high-ranking North Korean military official said recently that the question is not whether there will be a war on the peninsula, but when. Do you agree?

[Kong No-myong] We do not want a war. Such statements by the North are threatening. But we have proposed four-party negotiations, including the United States and China, to prevent a war.

[Krotky] Is reunification desirable, considering North Korea's enormous economic problems? Could South Korea cope with such a situation?

[Kong No-myong] We would, of course, be happy to see a peaceful reunification. In the event of peaceful reunification, the South Koreans would certainly be prepared to sacrifice part of their wealth.

[Krotky] What political effects will the economic crisis in North Korea have?

[Kong No-myong] The North Korean Government does not have many options. It can carry out reforms, but it can certainly not go on as it has done. Its economic difficulties are due to structural problems, and they are not limited to a certain period.

Take agriculture: In the 1970's they cleared a great many forests to grow more grain. Yet, the lack of trees caused the fertile soil to be washed away during the rainy season, which blocked the rivers and caused floods. That happens every year; it is not a one-time catastrophe.

In addition, the production of fertilizer and pesticides is very low in the North due to a drastic energy shortage.

That means the food shortage will continue, and it will even get worse next year and the year after.

[Krotky] Will the South help the North?

[Kong No-myong] We supplied 150,000 metric tons of rice last year.

[Krotky] Does that not just help the regime to survive in the end?

[Kong No-myong] This will, of course, contribute to the regime's survival. However, the people in the North are suffering because they do not have enough to eat.

ROK: Prosecution Charges Chon 'Practically Ordered' Kwangju Suppression

SK0605062396 Seoul YONHAP in English
0606 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP) — Former President Chon Tu-hwan ordered the bloody suppression of Kwangju democratization movement when he was the defense security commander and military strongman in 1980, the prosecution said on Monday.

The prosecution said it found that at the army general luncheon May 18, 1980, Chon practically ordered the bloody suppression which killed more than 300 Kwangju citizens, by saying that "Since the Kwangju demonstration is creating a very dangerous situation, the military must put down it with early hard-line suppression."

Chon was at the meeting along with Yi Hui-song, then martial law commander, Hwang Yong-si, then Army Vice Chief of Staff, Chong Ho-yong, then special warfare commander, and other senior generals.

The prosecution asked Chon and others, who were involved in the May 18 suppression, about the meeting during the seventh trial Monday on the Dec. 12 military coup in 1979 and May 18 bloody suppression in 1980.

Chon, however, denied the prosecution's allegation, saying, "It is true that we had a luncheon meeting Sunday or May 18, but we never discussed ways to suppress the Kwangju demonstration."

ROK: Chon Denies Issuing Firing Order During Kwangju Incident

SK0605105896 Seoul YONHAP in English
1053 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP) — Former President Chon Tu-hwan on Monday denied the prosecution charges that he in effect ordered opening

fire at demonstrators during the tragic Kwangju incident of May 1980.

"As an army intelligence unit commander, I had nothing to do with troops deployment or field operations," Chon said during the 7th session of the trial of him and ten others involved in the May 18 Kwangju incident.

Chon, who was then commander of the Defense Security Command, asserted that when the Kwangju demonstration turned worse, 31st Division Commander Chong Ung recommended 2nd Army Commander Chin Ui-chong that "self-defense right" be invoked, which he said was finally granted by Defense Minister Chu Yong-pok and Martial Law Commander Yi Hui-song.

The prosecution had found out that it was based on the "self-defense right" invoked that troops in Kwangju opened fire at demonstrators.

Chon's allegation, however, was refuted by Yi Hui-song who, in a reply to prosecution questioning, contended that when 2nd Army Commander Chin called on him on the afternoon of May 21 and recommended the invocation of the "self-defense right," a draft order on the invocation of the right already existed.

The draft order was prepared by the Defense Security Command, Yi said.

During the trial session held at the Seoul District Court, the prosecution also charged that co-defendant Hwang Yong-si instructed over the phone armored school superintendent Yi Ku-ho and army training and doctrine commander Kim Ki-sok to mobilize one battalion of tanks and armed helicopters, respectively, for use against demonstrators. Both turned it down, however, the prosecution said.

ROK: Prosecutors Probe Management of Slush Funds by Chon's Wife

SK0505023796 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo
WWW in English 1211 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Prosecutor's Office announced Saturday that it is tracing the location of tens of billions of won of former President Chon Tu-hwan's slush fund which were allegedly managed by his wife Yi Sun-cha. Yi is suspected of being the most recent to manage the money when Chon was arrested. Ten of Chon's former secretaries, who were summoned by the Prosecutor, testified that they had returned money given to them by Chon to hide, immediately before Chon was arrested, giving it to Yi. According to the Prosecutor's Office, 140 billion won are still unaccounted for and their whereabouts are being investigated. The Prosecutor's Office also announced that there is no plan to summon former First Lady Yi.

ROK: Kim Yong-sam, Yi Hong-ku Discuss Reshuffle of Key NKP Officials

SK0505031396 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
5 May 96 p 1

[Report by Kim Chin and Choe Hun]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that President Kim Yong-sam, who is also president of the New Korea Party (NKP), held a luncheon meeting with Yi Hong-ku, an NKP adviser, at Chongwadae [presidential offices] on the afternoon of 4 May, and informed him of his appointment as party chairman.

At the meeting, President Kim explained the future direction of his management of state affairs and the political situation, and exchanged views with Adviser Yi Hong-ku on a planned reshuffle of party officials to be carried out around 8 May.

In a meeting with a CHUNGANG ILBO reporter on the afternoon of 4 May, Adviser Yi mentioned the rumor on his appointment as NKP chairman, stating that "there were no political talks during today's Chongwadae luncheon meeting. However, since I joined the party, I will cooperate to the extent possible if I am asked to take over any post," thus suggesting the possibility of his appointment.

Since Adviser Yi's inauguration as the party chairman has become almost certain, the reappointment of incumbent Party Secretary General Kang Sam-chaе or, alternatively, the appointment of So Chong-won or So Sok-chaе, assemblymen-elect, as the new party secretary general is being studied.

Assemblymen Kim Chung-wi, So Sang-mok, and Kang Kyong-sik have been mentioned as strong candidates for the chief policymaker position. Assemblymen Sin Kyong-sik, Pak Hui-tae and Kang Chae-sop have been mentioned as candidates for the post of floor leader. Among them, Kang Chae-sop is noted as the strongest candidate.

There is a great possibility President Kim Yong-sam will reshuffle three or four cabinet members, including the minister of state for political affairs, after the reshuffling of party officials. Assemblymen Chong Chae-mun, Kang Sam-chaе and So Chong-hwa, who were elected to a fourth term, and Assemblymen Paek Nam-chi and Kang Chae-sop, who were elected to a third term, have been mentioned as candidates for the cabinet.

Meanwhile, Kim Yun-hwan, incumbent NKP chairman, and Yi Han-tong, incumbent vice speaker of the assembly, are known to be the strongest candidates for assembly speaker, while Assemblyman Sin Sang-u, elected to

his seventh term, has also been mentioned as a candidate.

It has been learned that President Kim Yong-sam, in a speech to be delivered during the party's national plenary meeting on 7 May, will emphasize the great national unity of the whole people through forward-looking politics and the elimination of regionalism in order to build a first-class state in the 21st century. He will also stress that he will give top priority to carrying out reforms in people's everyday lives by the government and ruling party, by sincerely reflecting the popular will shown in the results of the general elections.

A relevant high-ranking official in the ruling camp said: President Kim's speech will stress expansion of forces supporting generational shifts while blocking the early discussion of presidential candidacies within the ruling camp.

ROK: Yi Hong-ku Named Ruling Party Chairman
SK0505015296 (Internet) *The Chungang Ilbo* WWW in English 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Kim Yong-sam, the leader of the ruling New Korea Party (NKP), held a luncheon meeting with former Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku on Saturday at Chongwadae and reportedly designated him chairman of the NKP.

President Kim explained future directions for national administration and management at the meeting, and the two exchanged views over the party reshuffle slated to take place around May 8. With the finalization of Yi's appointment as the ruling party chairman, plans are now under consideration as to whether or not to retain Kang Sam-chae as the party secretary-general, or designate either So Chong-won or So Sok-chae, both prominent figures who switched alliance from the minor opposition Democratic Party.

ROK Editorial Comments on Conflict Between Political Parties

SK3004022596 (Internet) *The Digital Choson Ilbo* WWW in English 1159 GMT 29 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Between Invitation and Investigation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On the verge of opening the new session of the National Assembly, the political world has frozen over two issues: opposition parties' strong resistance to investigation of elected member Kim Hwa-nam by the Prosecutor's office, and the courting of opposition forces by the ruling party. Should this result in the dissolution of the reconciliatory mood fostered by the serial talks President Kim held with

opposition party leaders, it can only lead to further difficulty in the future.

It is difficult to make sense of what appears to be the conflicting objectives of the ruling party. Perhaps the New Korea Party is acting out of desperation to fill the 11 seats it needs to gain a majority in the Assembly. Or maybe, this is just an effort to make good on its promise to the people for a "clean election."

The opposition groups are discussing the possibility of uniting against the ruling party, claiming that, "Culling from opposition party members to build up the ruling party and artificially changing the choice of the voters is contrary to principles of democracy and the people's will," and that, "The Prosecutor's investigation of election law violators is slanted against opposition parties." Such statements are persuasive, as are gestures like Kim Chong-pil's recent cancellation of his trip to Japan to call emergency talks between the United Liberal Democrats and the National Congress for New Politics.

As proof for a possible strategic link between the investigations and the invitations to join the ruling party, the United Liberal Democrats are citing Kim Hwa-nam's sudden resignation from the party, once under full investigation. Earlier, Kim was absent from several party events claiming personal "troubles."

The government needs to address claims by the opposition party that the prosecutor's investigations are party specific: in the case of the ruling party members, investigations are carried out only if there is a call for them within those regions; whereas opposition party members and independents are individually targeted. Rather, the government should take heed of the simple truth that irrationality breeds irrationality, and would do well to use wisdom to solve such political issues.

ROK: Opposition Alliance Against Kim Yong-sam, NKP Viewed

SK0505024296 (Internet) *The Digital Choson Ilbo* WWW in English 1208 GMT 4 May 96

[Editorial: "One Kim vs. Two Kims"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Expectations ran high when President Kim Yong-sam met in a series of meetings with opposition party leaders Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil. With more recent developments, however, the political scene has gone cold. The current administration continues to arrest opposition party members and independents newly elected to the National Assembly who have not been lured to the New Korea Party

[NKP]. In one sense, the meetings between the two opposition groups' Kims can be called a tactical alliance to counterbalance the actions of the government.

In fact, there are no restrictions against changing party affiliation given good reason; and, given clear evidence, there is every reason to prosecute violators of election laws. However, if either are done with ulterior motives, the opposition parties cannot simply remain quiet. Perhaps, the two opposition party Kims realize that remaining passive allows President Kim to orchestrate a majority within the National Assembly, creating a political state of a "one Kim monopoly" instead of the current "three Kim triad." Especially in an environment where the Public Prosecutor is not objective, and elections are not managed publicly, should President Kim succeed in his majority building, there will be no hope of a change of government in the future, and the very existence of the opposition parties will be threatened.

In this regard, we think it is necessary for President Kim and the two opposition leaders to build a relationship based on sincere intentions to develop a healthy political environment. At the moment, there seems to be little more than animosity between the President and the two other Kims. As long as this situation remains unchanged, we must continue to endure the tedium of their infighting. It would be ideal if the President could learn to understand the other two Kims' repulsion to the ruling party's actions and if the opposition leaders could cooperate with the President to end his term on a positive note.

ROK: Parties 'At Odds' Over National Assembly Posts

SK0505032196 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 5 May 96 p 2

[Article by staff reporter Sin Yong-pae: "Parties at Odds Over Nat'l Assembly Posts"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ruling and opposition parties are at odds over how to share the posts of the new National Assembly, which is scheduled to be inaugurated early next month.

Some political watchers said the dispute among the rival parties may stall the inaugural session of the 15th National Assembly.

The parties agree that the post of National Assembly speaker should go to the ruling New Korea Party [NKP] in respect for past practices.

But they are differing over who will be the two vice speakers of the National Assembly, the nation's 299-member unicameral legislative house.

The ruling party is suggesting that it and the main opposition party, the National Congress for New Politics, share the posts.

But leaders of the second largest opposition party, the United Liberal Democrats [ULD], are demanding that the ruling party give up the post of one vice speaker and hand it over to their party.

The ruling and the two opposition parties are also showing differences over the sharing of posts of the 16 National Assembly Standing Committee chairmen.

The ruling party is claiming that floor negotiations over the sharing of committee chairman posts should affect only 14 committees.

Party officials said that the other two standing panels — the Steering Committee and the Intelligence Committee — should be excluded from the negotiations.

They cited as a reason the National Assembly law stipulating that these two committees, unlike other panels, be composed of members of other standing committees.

The ruling party is proposing that it take seven of the 14 committee chairman posts while the National Congress for New Politics [NCNP] takes four and the United Liberal Democrats three.

It is a political practice to allocate committee chairman posts to political parties on the basis of the number of legislative seats they hold.

A political party which holds less than 20 seats is not allowed to participate in floor negotiations over the sharing of Assembly posts and other issues.

But the National Congress for New Politics would not accept the ruling party's proposal.

The main opposition party is claiming that the Steering Committee and Intelligence Committee should be included in the sharing of committee chairman posts.

Party officials said the 16 committee chairman posts should be allocated in the ratio of eight for the NKP, five for the NCNP and three for the ULD.

But the United Liberal Democrats are ready to accept any idea if it is to ensure the party will be given three committee chairman posts.

When they manage to agree on a sharing formula, the rival parties will have to start negotiations on which committee chairman posts they will take.

The ruling party is demanding finance, transportation, construction, home affairs and other major committees.

In particular, the party is demanding the education and the health-social welfare committees.

The party believes that it needs to control the education committee to back up President Kim Yong-sam's education reform plans and the health-social welfare committee to improve citizens' lives.

But the party is ready to make concessions to opposition parties over the chairman posts of the Foreign Affairs and National Unification Committee and the Defense Committee.

The National Congress for New Politics is also keeping an eye on the home affairs and the health-social welfare committees.

The United Liberal Democrats is calling for the post of the construction and transportation committee chairman.

ROK: Two More Democratic Party Lawmakers Leave Party

SK0605014996 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 May 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minor Democratic Party (DP) faced another humiliating moment as two additional lawmakers-elect, Choe Uk-chol from Kangnung, Kangwon Province, and Hwang Kyu-son from Ichon, Kyonggi Province, turned in their resignations as party members to the party Saturday. With their departure, the number of DP lawmakers dwindled to 13.

Choe said, "I had no choice but to change under the current circumstances." Both the lawmakers-elect are expected to join the ruling New Korea Party.

Their departure came about while DP members were staging an indefinite sit-in protest at the party's head office, demanding that the ruling party stop taking away its successful candidates.

The ruling New Korea Party has been aggressive in recruiting lawmakers from the opposition parties and independents to control the 299-seat National Assembly.

ROK: Opposition Boycott of National Assembly Unlikely To Last

SK0605015196 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 May 96 p 1

[Article: "Will Two Kims' Resolve To Boycott Assembly Hold Out?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil, two major leaders in the opposition camp, have decided to boycott the opening of the 15th National Assembly slated for June 5 unless the ruling camp stops wooing lawmakers elect so that it may control the floor.

But few will place much stock in their determination because it cannot possibly hold out to the end as more than one-third of the lawmakers-elect are newcomers and naturally very much eager to enter the Assembly. The two leaders can do little to change this with the mentioned cause alone.

The ruling New Korea Party (NKP) headed by President Kim Yong-sam has been aggressive in enticing lawmakers-elect from across the bank as it failed to retain a legislative majority.

The NKP won only 139 seats in the 299-seat National Assembly in the April 11 elections. The National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) led by Kim Tae-chung won 79 seats, smaller than it had expected, and the United Liberal Democrats (ULD) led by Kim Chong-pil won 50 seats, far more than expected.

The Democratic Party (DP) gained a disappointing 15, five short of being accorded the status of a floor negotiating group. The number of independents elected was 16.

In defiance of the opposition from the opposition parties, the NKP had a go with its plan to control the Assembly by recruiting "switchables" either from the group of independents or opposition parties.

Six independents have joined the NKP. Three from the opposition DP left the party apparently to join the NKP. More are said to be in the pipeline, and it is only a matter of time before the ruling party becomes a majority force.

Alerted by the ruling NKP's onrush, the two Kims need to join hands against President Kim with the belief that if they allow themselves to be "pushed" this time, they will have no future.

Here arises the question whether or not the two have a real shot at the presidency. Not many hold the view that these septuagenarians can come to power through the presidential elections in the midst of rising call for new leaders free of the demagoguery and trickery of old politics.

Kim of the NCNP, who have already failed three times in his presidential bid, is already feeling his influence drain like sand slipping through his fingers.

Rep. Chong Tae-chol, former vice president of the NCNP, let on that Kim Tae-chung is not the only choice for the party, although there is no alternative at this point.

Kim of the ULD, who has to be satisfied with the number two post under the late president Pak Chong-hui, with whom he pulled off the May 16 coup in 1961, may well be feeling that his only chance this time is

to cultivate a "tough" image of himself. This is why he is more aggressive than NCNP leader in their joint political offensive against President Kim.

With the hope of coming to power by changing the current presidential government system into a cabinet system, the ULD leader joined former President No Tae-u in a three-party merger along with President Kim in 1990, leaving Kim of the NCNP outside.

ULD leader Kim had his own plan like President Kim at that time.

The linchpin of the merger was the adoption of the parliamentary cabinet system as a new form of government. However, it was shattered by President Kim, who was then chairman of No's Democratic Liberal Party, predecessor of the present NKP, led by No.

Through long and arduous infighting, President Kim emerged successful and went on to wrench the presidential nomination, eventually winning the 1992 presidential election.

ULD leader Kim was once again forced to be happy with the number two position until he was "booted" out by President Kim in late 1994.

Now the three Kims are still fighting each other. This time President Kim is trying to push the two Kims overboard with an appealing call for the rise of a new generation in the political arena.

The two Kims are defiant, refusing to go. They are thinking that they are still healthy and high in spirits and there is a chance if the parliamentary cabinet system is adopted.

The two Kims agreed in Saturday meeting that the outcome of the April elections alone is sufficient for power transfer, if the parliamentary cabinet is in force.

ULD leader Kim is now joining hands with NCNP leader Kim against President Kim, with whom he once aligned with against the NCNP leader, as if proving that there is no eternal enemy nor friend in politics, only political interests.

If the two Kims continue to boycott the National Assembly stubbornly, it is feared that it will only increase the likelihood that they will be alienated from the people.

ROK: NKP Reacts To Opposition Threat of Assembly Boycott

SK0405122896 Seoul YONHAP in English
1048 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 4 (YONHAP) — The ruling New Korea Party (NKP) on Saturday lashed

out at the two opposition leaders — Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil — for their joint threat of parliamentary boycott.

Commenting on the two opposition leaders' meeting, NKP spokesman Son Hak-kyu said their calling the recent election a total election fraud and their intimidation of parliamentary boycott "has just dumbfounded everybody."

As senior opposition politicians, they dared threaten to boycott the new parliament, ignoring the law, and this is nothing but a grave challenge to the principle of rule by law and an insult of the voters, he charged.

They should now show themselves as new and productive political leaders of dignity whom junior politicians can revere, instead of dirtying politics with their never-ending desire for power, he said.

ROK: NKP To Continue Wooing Independent Lawmakers

SK0605072296 Seoul YONHAP in English
0636 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP) — The ruling New Korea Party (NKP) will continue recruiting newly elected opposition Democratic Party (DP) and independent lawmakers to secure a majority in the new parliament before it opens early next month, in defiance of the opposition camp's protests.

NKP Secretary-General Kang Sam-chae told reporters Monday there is no change in the party's plan to become the majority force of the new parliament by winning "outsiders" over to its side before the 15th National Assembly opens, adding the party would continue recruiting independent lawmakers-elect.

Asked about the recruitment of DP lawmakers-elect, he said, "If they leave the DP to join us in the NKP of their own accord, we will welcome them to our party and I hope they will join the NKP with the determination to build a new Korea."

Lawmaker-elect Yi Kyu-taek announced he would join the NKP when he left the DP and two others have also seceded from the DP, but they have not yet informed the NKP of an intention to join it, he added.

Commenting on charges by the two opposition leaders, Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil, that the NKP is scheming to recruit outsiders, Kang said they also would certainly want independents to join their parties, adding, "I can't understand why they blame us for admitting to our party those who join us of their own accord."

Asked about the two recently elected independent lawmakers who once served former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, Kwon Chong-tai and Kim Yong-kap, he replied, "When those whose political ideology does not agree with ours apply for admission to our party, we will be very careful in dealing with such applications and we don't want to give the impression that we're engrossed in gaining one or two more parliamentary seats."

ROK: Opposition Sends Open Letter to Kim Yong-sam on Election Fraud

SK0605040096 Seoul YONHAP in English
0233 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, May 6 (YONHAP) — Three opposition parties adopted an open questionnaire Monday addressed to President Kim Yong-sam, alleging that the government and the ruling party "severely rigged the April 11 general elections in a way more intelligent than any past regimes."

The four-point questionnaire was adopted at a meeting of the "Six-Member April 11 General Election Fraud Investigation Committee" which is made up of representatives from the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), the United Liberal Democrats (ULD) and the Democratic Party.

The open letter demanded that the government disclose the truth about its alleged influence meddling and financial support for ruling party candidates in the parliamentary elections.

The letter also demanded that the ruling camp make public its financing of the 1992 presidential campaign and the recent general election campaigns.

It also demanded that the "biased" investigations into election violations be discontinued and the NKP halt its attempts to recruit opposition and independent lawmakers-elect.

The questionnaire was to be delivered to the presidential office Monday morning by legislators-elect Cho Chan-hyong of the NCNP and Yi Kon-kae of the ULD.

The three opposition parties also agreed in principle to have joint teams look into most serious election rigging allegations in a number of electoral districts and to organize lawyer groups in a bid to mount a joint legal effort.

ROK: Trade Institute Report Criticizes Fair Trade Commission

SK0405022096 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
4 May 96 p 9

[Article by staff reporter Yi Chang-sop]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) is described as arbitrary, unprincipled and non-transparent in a recent report.

Kim In-chung, an economist with the Korea Institute for International Economics and Trade (KIET), said the commission has not been impartial in the treatment of violators of fair trading and anti-monopoly rules. He said some companies have been subject to crackdown while others have not.

He said in his report the wording of the fair trade and anti-monopoly laws is quite ambiguous, leaving room for different interpretations of the same provisions. He urged the commission to make its laws and regulations transparent and clearly understandable to consumers.

The economist said the commission frequently uses such words as illegal, unfair, wrongful, irrational and dishonest in its rulings against violators of fair trading and anti-monopoly rules. However, even the commission itself does not fully understand the legal differences between these words, he said.

Despite its acquisition of ministry status, the commission is still unable to apply its competition-promoting rules to the public, finance, distribution and legal sectors without exception. It said only the manufacturing sector is subject to the competition-promoting rules.

He questioned the ultimate objectives of the commission. "Is it supposed to be helping Korean firms sharpen their international competitive edge, checking economic concentration or encouraging a wider dispersal of stock ownership," he asked.

He concluded the ultimate objective of the commission is to ensure a wide dispersal of the shares in business groups. When chaebol shares are widely dispersed, economic concentration is not an important matter.

Kim said Korea should pursue legislation aimed at encouraging a wide dispersal of stock ownership in business groups and checking and monitoring the authority and activities of owners. He said the commission lacks transparency and is not quick about doing its business. He proposed the introduction of a law enabling consumers and producers to file compensation lawsuits when they sustain financial damages as a result of producers and competitors' violation of fair trade laws. Currently, no one, except for the Fair Trade Commission, is

able to sue producers who are responsible for financial damage to consumers. The district prosecutor's office has been in constant conflict with the FTC in cracking down on violators of fair trade rules and perpetrators of economic crimes.

If the commission cannot solve the woes of consumers, consumers themselves should be given the right to sue producers, he said. To ensure that fair competition rules take root in Korea, compensation to consumers of three times their financial losses must be made the rule, he stressed.

There are so many exceptions in the anti-trust laws, he said. To eradicate these anomalies, government ministries must be required to consult with and get the agreement of the FTC when they enact competition-restricting laws, he said.

ROK: Small Firms' Interest in Investing in Southeast Asia Grows

SK0405021296 (Internet) The Chungang Ilbo WWW in English 2 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Domestic small- and medium-sized companies are turning from China to other countries as investment sources. Investment by small companies had been concentrated in China up until now, but lately this investment has been diversifying to other Southeast Asian nations.

According to the results of research conducted by the Small and Medium Industry Promotion Corporation in March on 277 small- and medium-sized companies on the source of their overseas investments, the proportion of the respondents who wish to invest in China dropped greatly to 29.2 percent from 40.1 percent recorded last year.

In contrast, small firms showed a high interest in Southeast Asian nations, especially in Vietnam. The change in preference may lie in the companies' search for other Asian countries where labor costs and real estate prices are relatively lower than in China.

ROK Government Seeks More 'Food Security' as Import Prices Rise

SK0605015296 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 May 96 p 8

[By staff reporter Sim Chae-yun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Buffeted by the wide fluctuations in the prices of international food grains, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has been groping for measures to cope but has been facing difficulties in finding a solution.

Amid reports of a possible grain crisis, the ministry held a series of meetings recently but failed to find the magic bullet.

The administration's dilemma lies in the fact that the nation does not have the tools to deal with a deficiency in the base for the production of the grains, which include corn, soybeans, and white wheat as main items.

Illustrating the problem, soybeans reached 309 dollars per ton while corn reached 202 dollars on May 2, increases of 39.2 and 82 percent, respectively over the previous year.

White wheat was 206 dollars per ton, an increase of 28 percent.

Prices for the main grains are going up like a rocket especially at times when major producing nations like the United States, in particular, are suffering from droughts and other conditions unfavorable for the growing of grain.

"With its heavy dependence upon imports, fluctuations in grain prices seem to be more serious for Korea," said a ministry official.

In fact, the self-sufficiency rate in white wheat stood at only 0.3 percent while those for soybeans and corn were 9.9 and 1.1 percent, respectively in 1995. The nation spent 2.2 billion dollars importing the three main grains last year. Corn led imports at 1.16 billion dollars.

"What we can do is to share information on international grain markets with producers and agricultural organizations," said Kim Chang-hyon of the ministry in charge of food grain policies.

Another measure could be to encourage farmers to produce grains by raising the prices the government pays for their purchase, he said. The administration is also considering lowering the quota tariff on imported grain.

"This will help importers lower their cost burdens, thus stabilizing prices on the domestic market, albeit to a limited extent," he added. Agricultural experts point out that a fundamental and long-term solution would be to expedite efforts to construct plants overseas.

The Sunkyoung Group, for instance, has already advanced into the United States and begun the production of corn. But no imports of Sunkyoung's products have taken place so far.

The Kohap Group has also made inroads into Russia for the production of soybeans. The project has allegedly reaped considerable fruit through the investment but the group has declined to reveal the exact situation and whether it has plans to bring the products into Korea.

Despite the investment by the two business groups, most companies which import grains are suffering from increasing financial burdens threatening their very survival. The ministry has also set up an ad hoc committee to do a feasibility study for the development of an agricultural base overseas. "China and Russia with vast land will be the nations subject to the domestic investment in this area," another ministry official explained.

The ministry is making efforts to strengthen the nation's position in international society in a bid to multiply import channels. "At present, the number of nations

which export grain to Korea is only five to seven. We need to increase the number to lessen the possible dangers in case of a grain crisis," said the official.

"We plan to underline the importance of food security in various international meetings like the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Food and Agriculture Organization and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation," he said.

The ministry has already embarked on preparations for the World Food Summit that will be held Nov. 13-17 in Rome.

Burma

Burma: PRC's Zhang Wannian, Party Depart Rangoon

BK0305155696 *Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese*
1330 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A PRC goodwill delegation led by Gen. Zhang Wannian, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, and his wife, who were paying a goodwill visit to the Union of Myanmar [Burma] at the invitation of Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and commander in chief of the Defense Services, left Yangon [Rangoon] on a Myanmar Airways International flight at 0800 today.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Gen. Maung Aye, SLORC vice chairman, Defense Services deputy commander in chief, and Army commander in chief, and his wife; Lieutenant Gen. Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the SLORC, Strategic Studies Office chief, and his wife; Lt. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2 of the SLORC and Army chief of staff, and his wife; Major General Aye Kyaw, minister of information; Brigadier Gen. Khin Maung Than, commander of the Yangon Military Command, and his wife; Brig. Gen. Kyaw Than, Mingaladon Air Base commander, and his wife; PRC Ambassador Chen Baoliu; Senior Colonel Wu Hua Chang, a military attache; and embassy staff.

Burma: NLD's Prevailing Political Will Against SLORC Noted

BK0305032696 *Bangkok THE NATION in English*
3 May 96 p A9

[Report by Ethan Casey: "NLD: The Swagger Is Back"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite restrictions on its leader's movements and the military government's increasing unwillingness to deal with it, Burma's National League for Democracy [NLD] is rebuilding.

The party, which won 80 per cent of the vote in the 1990 general election but was denied the chance to form a government, found itself in disarray last July when NLD general secretary Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest.

Now, almost six months after the NLD pulled out of a military-sponsored constitutional convention, party leaders and workers convey an air of confidence in the face of odds that seem steeper than ever.

The government, or State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] as it calls itself, decided to end its limited dialogue with the NLD in December, a high-ranking SLORC official told a diplomat. Approached

again in March, the official repeated the assertion. Such news does not dismay Suu Kyi.

"It is obvious that they have not been thinking of any substantive dialogue," she said last week.

It is very, very normal for dictatorial governments to refuse to talk to the opposition, because they believe that they have all the guns and all the power, there's no need for them to talk.

"But then the time comes when they realise there's no alternative."

NLD activists believe the SLORC hoped Suu Kyi's Release would split the party into quarrelling factions under her and chairman Aung Shwe. Instead, the party's several splinters obeyed Suu Kyi's call to unite. "We are now reorganising," says a worker at NLD headquarters. Differences of opinion are still there, but the NLD is now functioning as one unit."

The party faces several obstacles in its task of rebuilding, said the worker. First is a 1991 SLORC order banning recruitment by any political party. "That order is still in force," he said. "So we have to dodge this order."

In addition, local authorities are, with rare exception, hostile to the NLD and the party has been repeatedly denied permission to hold public meetings. Also, some political differences and personal animosities within the party remain.

"Youths are not very patient," remarked the party worker. "They are becoming impatient."

The party also faces different problems in Rangoon and Mandalay, the country's two largest cities. Noting ethnic and economic rivalries in Mandalay, Suu Kyi said the party is moving cautiously there. Tensions exist, she said, "between Burmese and Chinese, and even between the Burmese and some of the ethnic groups who have now built up business interests there. And that is a great pity and a great danger, and we would not like to exacerbate the situation."

Rangoon, on the other hand, is "the city of government employees," said another worker.

"They have their sympathies, but they cannot actively participate in our movement."

Several recent incidents demonstrate the junta's determination to restrict the movements and access of the party's leadership, especially Suu Kyi, to the public. On March 13, she tried to travel to Mandalay to give moral support to followers who had been arrested after performing a comedy sketch critical of the government.

She got as far as the train station, but her first-class carriage developed sudden and unexplained technical problems.

"It's like the games of children," said a diplomat who was at the station that day. "The SLORC cannot officially stop her visiting Mandalay. That's why the SLORC did such a thing."

Then on April 16, Suu Kyi was prevented from leading a procession from her house to a place where she could release fish in a ceremony to mark the Burmese New Year. Burma watchers are expecting similar incidents around July 19, the anniversary of the 1947 assassination of Gen Aung San, Burma's national hero and Suu Kyi's father.

"SLORC is very frightened of too close contact between the public and us, the leaders of the NLD," she said.

"They know very well that this would show very clearly that we have very, very strong support.

"And that is why they don't want us to go to the train, they don't want us to have a procession to release fish, because they know as well as everybody else does that we would get such tremendous public support that it would completely destroy all their claims about having the support of the people."

What also is shown, though, is that Suu Kyi's release from house arrest was more conditional than the junta claimed at the time.

"The international community should know that she is still restricted," said a source close to her. "And not in a gentlemanly way."

The driver of a taxi taking a journalist to meet Suu Kyi made no secret of his admiration for her. "She says, 'Try to escape fear'," he said.

The driver's openness was "probably because he sees you-a Westerner - as somebody who is no danger to him," remarked Suu Kyi.

"And it is a great pity that quite often now Burmese people see fellow Asians as people with whom they have to be cautious, in case they were to be reported to the government."

Despite recent setbacks and the junta's inflexibility, there remains a palpable sense that sooner or later, something must give.

What that will be remains to be seen. But NLD supporters remain oddly confident. "Democracy is not very far away," said the taxi driver. "Coming soon."

Burma: Suu Kyi Says NLD Following 'Flexible Agenda'

BK0305043196 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 May 96 p A9, A11

[Report by Ethan Casey]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rangoon — Faced with stringent de facto restrictions on her movements, and with many in and outside Burma wondering how effective her National League of Democracy (NLD) can be in ridding the country of its military government, Aung San Suu Kyi remains sure of her principles and confident of eventual success.

"No, I don't think we're in a tight corner," she said last week at her house in Rangoon. "We're certainly not in an ideal situation, because the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] is doing everything it possibly can to try to restrict us. But I would not say that we're in a tight corner."

Asked if her inability to move freely about the country or even around Rangoon is a cause of frustration, she replied: "I think it probably is a frustration for some of my followers. It's not a frustration for me because, well, this is part of political life in Burma. But I think what it does prove is that SLORC is very frightened of too close contact between the public and us, the leaders of the NLD."

Since March 13, when the railroad car on which she had a ticket to travel to Mandalay developed sudden and unexplained technical problems, she no longer gives the SLORC advance notice of her planned movements. One day recently she made an unannounced visit to a public market and was flocked by the women there.

"I think that annoyed the SLORC very much," she said with a smile. "I think they wrote an article, one of their usual articles, which did indicate that that had upset them very much. Every time they attack us, you can be sure that they've been upset about something."

Asked where in Burma the NLD is most effectively rebuilding, she replied that it is "strongest here in the headquarters, because we can quickly implement whatever we want to do. But it's difficult to say where the NLD is strongest, because sometimes unexpectedly you find the NLD is doing quite well in some small town in a rural area where you would have expected a lot of oppression."

At a press conference last Nov 29, Suu Kyi seemed to come close to saying she would never call her followers onto the streets. "We do not like to call the people onto the streets," she said then, "and we have no intention of calling the people onto the streets."

Asked last week to clarify, she said: "In politics you don't rule anything out. I've never made any statement that would put me in the position of having to go back on my word, so I never say I'll never do this or I'll never do that. In politics you should not say never. But obviously it's not the kind of tactics that I would willingly use, ever."

Responding to a diplomat's suggestion that the NLD is playing "defensive cricket," she replied: "We never do that. In any case, I don't know anything about cricket, and I don't think anybody in the NLD knows how to play cricket. So we wouldn't know exactly what he means."

"But if he thinks it's that we're just waiting and watching for things to happen, he's very wrong. We have a good agenda and we stick to it. But of course it's a flexible agenda, because we're very much aware of the fact that circumstances could change, something could arise which could make it necessary for us to change our agenda. We are flexible. We believe in flexibility. But we don't believe in the waiting game."

Some observers believe Suu Kyi and other NLD leaders might be hoping or trying to lure the SLORC into arresting them, as a way of galvanising support for the NLD. "I don't think Gandhi or Martin Luther King courted arrest for the sake of being arrested," she rejoined when asked if that was her plan. "I think what they were trying to show was that even at the risk of imprisonment, one must do what one has to do. That, the NLD leaders believe entirely. We know that what we do may well lead to imprisonment, but that will not stop us from carrying out our duties."

Yet she admits her re-arrest might indeed help the cause. "I do not think our arrest would in any way hurt the movement for democracy," she said. "I think that by rearresting us it would probably give a new momentum to the movement for democracy. So it does not worry us from a purely tactical point of view. We believe in hoping for the best and preparing for the worst. And I wouldn't call that the worst, actually."

Her death, on the other hand, might "create some consternation and chaos within the ranks," she acknowledged. "But I'm sure that we would be able to find the strength to pull through because we do have a lot of able people in the NLD. And although I am the front person, as it were, I do not work alone. And whatever people think, we do decide matters by consensus within the leadership of the NLD."

She said she was unruffled to hear that, according to sources close to the junta, the SLORC has definitely

ruled out any dialogue with the NLD because of her outspoken criticism.

"It could be true, it could not be true," she said, "and it does not worry us anyway. Because in any case it is obvious that they have not been thinking of any substantive dialogue."

"And unless they have substantive dialogue, it's no use to anyone in this country."

"And you see, so many dictatorial governments have ruled out dialogue with the opposition, but then they had to come to dialogue."

Burma: NLD Holds Division, State Conferences Nationwide

BK0405152496 Oslo Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that NLD's [National League for Democracy] state and divisional conferences were held in the respective states and divisions on 24-26 April and that they were concluded successfully.

The township representatives in the respective states and divisions presented reports at the conferences. It has also been learned that, based on these reports, separate reports will be published for each state and division.

The respective conferences selected seven representatives from each state and division, and a total of 98 representatives plan to attend NLD's national conference to be held in Rangoon.

Burma: Minister Says Fundamentalists Using Religion for Political Gain

BK0305124496 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English 3 May 96 pp 12

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Yangon [Rangoon] 2 May—Minister for Religious Affairs Lt-Gen Myo Nyunt addressed the opening of the 76th Annual General Meeting of the Myanmar [Burma] Council of Churches [MCC] at a Christian religious centre at 601 Pyay [Prome] Road this morning. [passage omitted on attendees]

In his address, Minister Lt-Gen Myo Nyunt wished physical and spiritual wellbeing to the Christian religious elders and MCC members. [passage omitted on quotations from the Bible and Buddhist Teachings]

As the Government is striving to achieve national reconsolidation and building a peace, pleasant, modern

developed nation, a group of Christians, who should be lauded as "harbingers of peace", served as negotiators to bring some armed groups into the legal fold, he said, adding Mong Tai Army, in addition to the previous 15 armed groups, has also surrendered. [passage omitted on quotation from the Bible]

He said the State Law and Order Restoration Council (the Tatmadaw [Defense Services] Government) puts Our Three Main National Causes [non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of national sovereignty] in the fore and has laid down the 12 political, economic and social objectives for systematic, orderly implementation.

He quoted Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Senior General Than Shwe as saying at the first four-monthly meeting for 1996 between the Council and chairmen of the State and Division Law and Order Restoration Councils, and commanders of Light Infantry Divisions that all must be vigilant of pessimists and saboteurs who are engaged in subversion keeping a blind eye to success achieved due to endeavours made, that they are causing instability in the country, only for the benefit of their organization and that they are stepping up their instigating acts to cause conflicts and instability with the aid of foreign nations and organizations. [passage omitted on quotation from the Bible]

He also dealt with unity among all nationals in Myanmar quoting Christian and Buddhist Scriptures, and said there is a group of pessimists who, as the Senior General has spoken about, are using religion for political gain. [passage omitted on quotation from the Bible]

Citing some extracts from the Scriptures, he elaborated on the need to abide by law. He quoted Romans 13:1-4: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God". "Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation". "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same"; "For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that, which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

In conclusion, he quoted Titus 3:1: "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work."

He wished peace of mind to all present. [passage omitted on blessing of congregation]

The meeting continues up to 5 May.

Burma: Student Guerrilla Group Reviews Policy Toward Rangoon

BK0605042096 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 6 May 96 p A2

[Report by Atsawin Phinitwong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tak — Burmese student guerrilla group, All Burma Students' Democratic Front [ABSDF], has held a meeting at a jungle base of the Karen Nation Union (KNU) headquarters along the Thai-Burmese border to review its policy towards Rangoon, a Thai border policeman said yesterday.

The policeman said about 30 key figures of the armed student group, led by Nay Aung, participated in the meeting at the KNU's Sixth Army Thee Ka Ple camp opposite Umphang district in Tak.

The jungle meeting, which is reported to last about one week, aims to revise the group's political stand points toward the Burmese government.

The students are also looking into several issues, including the Burmese junta's failure to hold dialogues with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi; its breaking of truce with ethnic Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP); and the problem of starvation at Karen refugee camps in Mae Sot district.

The Overseas Ethnic Minority Council (OEMC), a combined organization of Burmese minorities, including Karenni and Mon, is also planning a conference a few weeks after the students's meeting.

The Council's meeting will also focus on similar points discussed by the ABSDF, the border policeman said.

Burma: Navy Chief Exhorts Officers To Counter 'Subversives'

BK0305122696 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English 3 May 96 pp 12, 6

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Yangon [Rangoon] 2 May — On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services [Senior General Than Shwe], Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Tin Aye addressed conclusion of Naval Junior Executive Officer Course No 1/95 and Naval Junior Engineer Officer Course No 1/95 at the course graduation parade at the parade ground of Thanlyin [Syriam] Naval Training Command Headquarters this morning. [passage omitted on attendees and award presenting ceremony]

In his address, Rear-Admiral Tin Aye said subjects taught were only the basics and called on the officers to continue pursuing knowledge and set targets to become leaders reliable for Tatmadaw [Defense Services] (Navy). [passage omitted on leadership qualities]

He elaborated on the Tatmadaw's endeavours, in cooperation with the people, for wresting independence back and the post-independence period during which the Tatmadaw sided with the people, sacrificing life and limb, whenever the nation faced a crisis, such as internal insurgency or external aggression.

The Tatmadaw, he said, is carrying out with duty consciousness political, economic and social duties in addition to national defence so Tatmadawmen must have firm belief and conviction to be able to discharge these duties. [passage omitted on upholding three national causes, and interrelation of welfare, morale, and discipline]

He said the State has gained good political, economic and social foundations as it has worked taking the 12 political, economic and social objectives as guidelines.

He elaborated on national reconsolidation and convening of the National Convention for emergence of an enduring Constitution.

In conclusion, he exhorted officers to counter external and internal subversives who are driving a wedge between the Tatmadaw and the people, sowing discords.

Commander of Naval Training Command Headquarters Capt Tin Oo, presented certificates to the Junior officers in the Command Hall and addressed them.

Cambodia

Cambodia: Article Questions PRC Aid to Khmer Royal Armed Forces

BK0405105796 Phnom Penh CHAKKRAVAL
in Cambodian 1 May 96 pp 1, 4

[Article by Popich Chiep]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Chinese Army commander has given \$1 million in aid to the Khmer Royal Armed Forces (KRAF). China has provided, and still provides, assistance and support to the Khmer Rouge so that it can oppose the Royal Government. Why, then, is China now helping the KRAF?

This move is far from normal. It is made at the time when Cambodia's internal politics are in a state of disorder, which could well lead to an armed confrontation. The Chinese Army commander visited Cambodia and donated aid to the KRAF, after the latter suspended its campaign against the Khmer Rouge.

The aid will further enhance the Sino-Cambodian relationship, as long as it is not mixed with poison and has nothing to do with the Khmer Rouge. If not, relations between the two countries will certainly end.

Cambodia: PGNUNS Minister Comments on Elections

BK0405144596 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 May 96

[Interview Chan Youran, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and minister of the defense of national culture, literature, and customs of Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation with an unidentified station correspondent; date and place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] My greetings to your excellency. On 18 March, the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation (PGNUNS) issued a memorandum on the polls to be held under the communist Vietnamese puppet regime and the free and democratic elections. What is the reaction from various circles in our national community?

[Chan] Yes, thank you. Our PGNUNS has received many letters from our compatriots; political figures, teachers, intellectuals, and students. They are extremely satisfied with our memorandum which has clarified the issue of elections to our nation and people and helped them see that:

1. The schemes and maneuvers concocted by communist Vietnam and its puppets by organizing elections to achieve the Indochinese Federation Strategy of swallowing up Cambodia and devouring the flesh of Cambodians as they did those in Kampuchea Kraom; and
2. The PGNUNS's just support for free and democratic elections that aims to allow the Cambodian people to enjoy their right to self-determination.

[Correspondent] What are the schemes and maneuvers conducted by communist Vietnam and its puppets?

[Chan] Yes. Our compatriots already clearly see the schemes and maneuvers of communist Vietnam and its puppets designed to allow the communist Vietnamese regime to continue with their monopolistic, dictatorial, and fascist manner for another five years. This is aimed at exterminating the Cambodian race by turning the country into a second Kampuchea Kraom entirely within just two terms.

In the first term, from 1993 to 1998, some Vietnamese people grabbed power from the top to the bottom, while others completely controlled the economy, land, fish,

meat, and forests belonging to our nation and people. They evicted our compatriot land owners to the east, and then injected the Vietnamese, who now number over 4 million, into Cambodia. They are continuing to pump hundreds of thousands more into the country.

In the second five-year term, between 1998 and 2003, the number of Vietnamese will reach 10 million. As such, our Cambodian population will be outnumbered like during Kampuchea Kraom.

[Correspondent] What are their actual maneuvers in organizing the elections?

[Chan] To achieve their most criminal goal of eradicating our race, communist Vietnam and its puppets have prepared lists and everything with impunity. They have given the Vietnamese the right to vote for the communist party led by the communist Vietnamese puppets Hun Sen and Chea Sim. They continue to act in a monopolistic, dictatorial, fascist manner against our compatriots, who are opposed to the communist Vietnamese puppet regime, as well as the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party [BLDP] led by His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann and the Khmer Nation Party [KNP] headed by H.E. Sam Rangs. They have secretly created small parties led by their underlings to show people that the communist Vietnamese regime in Cambodia is a multi-party regime. They have ordered FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and Ranariddh, who have succumbed to communist Vietnam and its Cambodian People's Party, to take part in the next elections. Even FUNCINPEC will obtain far fewer votes than the communist Vietnamese CPP. FUNCINPEC, which will be the runner up, will certainly be invited by communist Vietnam and its puppets to remain as the nation-betraying two heads, to deceitfully show that multi-party democracy really exists in Cambodia. This is aimed at fooling the West into giving more money to the two heads so that they can continue the communist Vietnamese war to swallow up Cambodia and incorporate it into communist Vietnam's Indochinese Federation.

[Correspondent] What is the reaction of the international community?

[Chan] The peace-and justice-loving countries in the region and the world are paying considerable attention to the polls in Cambodia. They want it to be held freely and democratically so that the Cambodian people can determine their own destiny without foreign interference. This august and sacred right belong to our people as well as the people of the world, and is solemnly recognized by international law and the UN Charter. The Paris 23 October 1991 accord has also recognized the Cambodian people's right to self-determination.

The peace-and justice-loving people of the region and the world have seen through the schemes and maneuvers of communist Vietnam and its puppets that work against free and democratic elections in Cambodia. Communist Vietnam and its puppets are eager to organize the elections that will rubber stamp its ambition to further swallow up Cambodia and exterminate our race. The peace-and justice-loving people of the region and the world clearly recognize the greatest danger to the Cambodian nation as well as the regional peace, security, and stability. They believe that if communist Vietnam can set up its Indochinese Federation by swallowing Cambodia, it will certainly advance its covert war against neighboring countries, thus creating insecurity and instability in Asia. That being the case, these countries will definitely take into consideration the correct stance of our government, which proposes that:

1. An electoral committee made up of all political parties and Cambodian mass organizations in and outside the country be established to organize the free and democratic elections; and

2. The elections be internationally supervised by a number of countries.

[Correspondent] According to the memorandum, the people and PGNUNS do not have the least confidence in the elections. When do you think they will start accepting the polls?

[Chan] They will have some confidence in the 1997 and 1998 elections only if, by that time:

1. The West successfully manages to restore the balance in the municipal, provincial, district, communal, and village administrations. This will allow the elections to be held freely and democratically. The Interior Ministry and the municipal, provincial, district, communal, and village administrations of the communist Vietnamese puppets must not be allowed to organize the local and general elections as they like, according to the lists they have prepared. In fact, an electoral commission comprising all political parties and Cambodian mass organizations at home and abroad should be established. The commission is fully entitled and empowered to draft an electoral law and to prepare for the supervision and organization of a genuinely free and democratic poll, where Cambodians can exercise their right to self-determination. Otherwise, the elections will be held under the dictatorial regime of the communist Vietnamese puppets, who are doing away with freedom, democracy, the multi-party regime, and the Cambodian nation and race according to the communist Vietnamese strategy.

2. The West must correctly organize electoral offices to allow the elections to be held freely and democratically.

3. There should be a large number of international observers to ensure that the elections are held freely and democratically.

4. The West should not rubber stamp the elections if it is not so held, and should stop giving money to the communist Vietnamese puppet regime. This is to prevent it from further killing the Cambodian nation, people, and race.

[Correspondent] Why should the West do that?

[Chan] In my opinion:

1. The West should (?try to win). This is to allow the elections to be held in a genuinely free, and democratic climate. This will benefit the Cambodia nation and people, regional security and stability, international law, and the UN Charter.

2. This is also in the West's own interests. Should the 1997 and 1998 elections not be free and democratic, communist Vietnam will certainly subjugate Cambodia. Then the forces of the West will no longer exist.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Do you have any further comments?

[Chan] I wish reiterate that we are resolutely against the communist party led by the communist Vietnamese puppets Hun Sen and Chea Sim, who are implementing the communist Vietnamese Indochinese Federation Strategy. We are absolutely opposed to all of the nation-betraying parties implementing the Indochinese Federation Strategy of the Cambodian race-exterminating communist Vietnam. We assist and support all patriotic political figures and political parties that demand an end to the communist Vietnamese war to achieve peace and national reconciliation and solve the problem of over four million Vietnamese, thus allowing our people to have the right to live in a good, proper, independent, sovereign, united, and neutral state with all of its territorial integrity according to the 1:100,000 scaled map internationally recognized before 1970.

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Minister Explains Stance on Dual Nationality

BK0605053296 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 May 96

[Interview with Mak Ben, PGNUNS minister in charge of rural areas, agriculture, and water conservancy, by an

unidentified station correspondent on 5 May; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Greetings, Mr. Minister. What is your opinion regarding Vietnamese goon Hun Sen creating a nationality law to ban overseas Cambodians with dual nationality from handling state affairs or being MP's?

[Mak] Thanks, Madame. Here is my opinion on this issue: Vietnamese puppet Hun Sen has avoided issuing a nationality law for the past three years. In the meantime, he continued to permit communist Vietnam to send more Vietnamese nationals into the country to plunder our people's land, orchards, homes, rivers, lakes, jobs, and national resources. There are now over 4 million ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia—that is, half of the entire Cambodian population—and more are pouring in like an interrupted column of black ants. The presence of these Vietnamese immigrants poses a serious problem. It is a calamity, a monstrous danger to the very existence of our Cambodian nation, race, and society. Why has Hun Sen not dealt with such a problem? Why has Hun Sen not created a law to drive these Vietnamese out of Cambodia?

Instead of creating a law to drive out the Vietnamese who are swallowing up Cambodia, Hun Sen is creating a law against Cambodians: He is preventing overseas Cambodians, those from the United States, France, and Australia who have dual nationality, from being MP's and handling state affairs. What about Hun Sen himself? Who is he? Hun Sen holds Vietnamese nationality. He is a member of the Vietnam Communist Party and is chanting the Ho Chi Minh prayer everyday. He is an opponent of the monarchy, democracy, rights, freedom, and Buddhism. He has committed the heinous crime of betraying the nation, selling out the country, massacring the people, and allowing communist Vietnam to swallow up Cambodian territories and exterminate the Cambodian race. He must not be allowed to head the administration and lead the country.

[Correspondent] Why do overseas Cambodians have dual nationality?

[Mak] To my knowledge, our Cambodian compatriots living in other countries need to have dual nationality to be guaranteed sustenance and jobs in those countries in accordance with their law and practice. They may have dual nationality, but their sentiment, their allegiance remains with our nation and people. They are proud of their own nation and have contributed as much they can to the struggle against the genocidal communist Vietnamese aggressors.

[Correspondent] Do they want to return to Cambodia?

[Mak] To my knowledge, the overwhelming majority of Cambodians in the United States, France, Australia, and other countries in Western Europe want to come back. They want to contribute to national reconstruction. However, so far they have not been able to return because they cannot stand living with the traitors and the genocidal communist Vietnamese aggressors. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What can be done to help overseas Cambodians return?

[Mak] In my opinion, only after we have terminated communist Vietnam's war, terminated the communist Vietnamese puppet regime, and terminated Hun Sen, and only after we have a national regime, national unity, and a truly pluralistic democratic regime will our overseas Cambodian brothers return home to help handle state affairs and contribute to national reconstruction to the best of their ability.

An increasing number of overseas Cambodians are demanding that the West stop giving money to the two heads because communist Vietnam and Hun Sen are using the funds provided by the West to continue their exclusive hold on power in Cambodia and to crush and scatter the forces of the West. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is the stance of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS] toward overseas Cambodians?

[Mak] In its capacity as the representative of the Cambodian nation and people, our PGNUNS prepared and adopted a nationality law and an immigration law on 18 December 1995 to be applied to the whole of Cambodia. Our government's laws are aimed at protecting the national and people's interests and the nation's sovereignty and unity and at combating the genocidal danger posed by communist Vietnam. Our laws aim particularly to rid our country of Vietnamese immigrants. Concerning overseas Cambodians, our government's laws protect their right to remain fully and wholly citizens of Cambodia. Our laws stipulate: Cambodians living abroad and holding foreign nationality remain Cambodian nationals and have the same rights and duties as all other Cambodian nationals.

I would like to add that our National Union Party's [NUP] political platform also clearly specifies that all returning overseas Cambodians enjoy the same political rights, rights to work and do all kinds of businesses, and other rights as all Cambodians living in the country since they are recognized as Cambodian citizens. The UNP firmly, thoroughly, and resolutely implements the political stance of rallying all Cambodians in a

great national union to have enough forces for national defense and reconstruction.

Cambodia: Hun Sen Holds News Conference 3 May

BK0305121296 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian
1300 GMT 3 May 96

[News conference by Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen with foreign and domestic correspondents at the Cambodiana Hotel in Phnom Penh on 3 May — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [VOA correspondent Mayarit] Greetings, Samdech Second Prime Minister. You have just said that you will give other political parties the legal right to conduct political activities in due time. Does this also include Sam Rangsi's party?

[Hun Sen] I am not the one to give that right to anybody. It is the natural right of a free man to set up a political party. So, no one has the right to give it to anybody. It is the natural right of a man to set up a political party, to speak, or to assemble. What I want to say is that any party — be it party A or party B, of whomever and no matter what his name — enjoys the same right. I hope you understand. I do not want to mention any name. Do you understand? Is it enough to understand? Do you need any more clarification? No? [words indistinct]

I meant all and stressed all parties. What we oppose is the creation of terrorist groups. Go ahead, if you want to set up political parties. You can set up another 100 and open offices. My wish is only to see that Cambodians are also allowed to stay [words indistinct].

[Mayarit] I also would like to know about the political party law. How is the work on this law going?

[Hun Sen] The Interior Ministry is drafting this law. At an Interior Ministry seminar a few months ago, I urged the ministry to quickly work it out in order to protect the activities of associations and the political activities of political parties because we are running out of time for both new and existing political parties to prepare for the local elections in 1997. All political parties will have the right to participate, not just those having representatives in the Royal Government or the National Assembly. In my opinion, members of other parties—even independent candidates—should be permitted to run. A teacher, a lecturer who wants to try his hand as a commune headman or an MP should be permitted to run for election without having to join any party. So, this is a point that the Royal Government is urging the Interior Ministry to consider.

[Mayarit] Concerning the dual nationality law, in reference to your speech the other day, will there be any

hitch to the 1998 elections if this dual nationality law is not passed in time?

[Hun Sen] We are watching reactions to this issue. In my opinion, however, the grace period should come to an end. Not a single country in the world is known to allow its politicians to hold two nationalities. I do not understand. I do not believe that Helmut Kohl, a German national, or Li Peng, a Chinese national, or Vo Van Kiet, a Vietnamese national, or those foreign MP's hold any nationality other than their own. So, it is time for the grace period to end and for those with dual nationality to closely coexist with the Cambodian people.

For example, I have seen the statement of His Excellency Nguon Soeu's Khmer Nation Party saying that a bigamist cannot claim to be loyal to his wives. That is the truth. The problem for a person with dual nationality is like that of a bigamist. When one wife is angry with him, he runs to the embrace of the other wife. He steals things from one place and keeps them in the other place. I do not want to accuse anyone of committing that crime, but in my opinion, politicians should have only one nationality in order to be fully responsible to the nation and to maintain equity between two nationalities.

Since you raised this question, I can talk about responsibility and equity between one nationality and another. There can be no independence in negotiations if one person is the same nationality as the person sitting before him. That is my belief.

Take an example in which a Cambodian minister with German nationality must negotiate with Germany. How would he solve the problem if he had to negotiate with a German minister? He would be worried that Germany could withhold his nationality if he harmed Germany's interests too much. So, I see that this is not a minor issue. On the contrary, it is quite serious. In addition, I can add the question of sovereignty, which I have repeatedly commented on during the past few days. There is sometimes a case in which the other side wants to pressure us into signing a concession. They would use our weakness of holding their nationality, of living in their country. They could whisper, indirectly, through a third party: We will cut your interests in our country if you do not satisfy our demand. How could this matter be settled?

I have already said that, if the elections were postponed, the reason would be because of the impasse over the nationality law. The principle of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], supported by many other parties and MP's in the National Assembly, is to have only one nationality, and we will resolutely oppose any move to permit politicians to continue holding dual nationality in Cambodia. This is so that the people can see who is

loyal to the country. Our official stance is one of holding only one nationality. The people will see for themselves who is loyal to them if those who have dual nationality refuse to vote for this law. This is my complete answer. The elections can be postponed only if those with dual nationality refuse to adopt this nationality law. If this law is passed because there are more single-nationality MP's than dual-nationality MP's, then it is the best thing.

[Mayarit] The other day you said that the elections can neither be delayed nor advanced under any conditions. Today you said that a delay would be because of the disagreement over passing the dual nationality law. Will the elections still be in 1998, based on what you said before?

[Hun Sen] You heard only one point in my speech. You did not ask me about my other point. I talked about my stance on the elections. I said the elections must be held on schedule, neither earlier nor later. With regard to nationality, I said I was afraid that those with dual nationality would not adopt the nationality law. I had my reservation here. You did not take my speech as a whole and examined only one aspect of it. That is my reservation. If the dual nationality law is not passed, the elections will be postponed. If it is passed, then the elections will be on schedule. [passage omitted]

Is that clear? Do you have to make any comment on this? If not, just replay the whole tape. Your VOA caused the U.S. ambassador to apologize to me the other day. U.S. Ambassador Tony Quinn apologized to me through an assistant state secretary because VOA reported: "He said to Hun Sen: You have not been educated to lead." The U.S. ambassador apologized to me, saying that VOA had blundered. I only want to remind you that the media exists if consumers believe in it.

[Unidentified newspaper editor] When you visited the orphanage at Phum Daeum Kor, you said that ministers [words indistinct] of the prime minister. Yesterday, however, when you visited Kandal Stoeng, you said that ministers—such as His Excellency Tol Loah—did not follow your instruction regarding the shortage of teachers. If the ministers do not follow the prime minister's good ideas, how badly is the work being bungled?

[Hun Sen] First, thank you for raising this question. There are two separate aspects of the problem. The first is about political principles concerning the politicians and the civil administration. Civil servants cannot be transferred or removed at will. They are protected by their civil service law. You cannot impose party quotas on the civil administration or the armed forces

either. Political appointees, from the posts of under state secretary upward, are included in the prime minister's portfolio. The prime minister appoints anybody he can command when the prime minister is sacked or when there is a government reshuffle. When he leaves the government, he brings these people along with him, and the new prime ministers have the choice of taking them back or not.

There is a third aspect here that I talked about yesterday. The problem is that the minister is not in my portfolio because this is a coalition government. Kea Sahan is in my portfolio, while His Excellency [H.E.] Tol Loah is in Prince Krompreah Ranariddh's portfolio. If Kea Sahan is in the wrong, I can remove him immediately. Removing H.E. Tol Loah, however, is the right of the prince krompreah as agreed upon by our coalition government. In my opinion, however, it is completely up to the prince krompreah whether or not he removes the minister. It is his right, his business.

Now this is even better. Since this government has two prime ministers and there are dual government members in each ministry, I can overcome the problem, as I said yesterday when I ordered the state secretary to perform the work if the minister is absent or does not work. The civil servants should also play along. Moreover, I saw a solution to the shortage of personnel in public services: We do not have to retire personnel when we cannot get replacements for them. The finance minister just continues to pay them, and the problem is solved.

For this reason, I said that I do not worry if anyone wants to leave or to stay in the government. The CPP said in its memorandum that it will carry on the permanence of the Royal Government even if some people want to walk out of it. It has never been stipulated that the government must dissolve if a few people walk out.

That is my point. It is not different. We have two portfolios in the coalition because we have two prime ministers. Is it clear now? Thank you.

[REUTER correspondent Hem Sopha] Recently, a number of foreign newspapers excerpted his majesty the king's remarks in Paris. They are as follows: The Royal Palace is full of male and female spies and is wiretapped. What is your opinion if these remarks are true?

[Hun Sen] I would like to emphasize that you should send this question to his majesty the king so he can answer himself. I cannot answer for him. These are the king's remarks. That is my complete comment on this question.

[Unidentified KHMER EKKAREACH correspondent] You said just now that you wanted many more parties to be set up legitimately. Is there any difference between this and the decision made by the Interior Ministry on 19 April ordering all political parties to suspend their activities.

[Hun Sen] Thank you for asking me this question. I was quite shocked when my adviser Om Yinteng sent me faxes on both my fax machines this morning to say he had some urgent business. [passage omitted]

I then saw that there was a message from H.E. Sar Kheng and H.E. Yuhokkri dated 19 April. I did not immediately read the contents, thinking that the coministers would have sent a copy to the government's office. The message talked about the temporary suspension of all offices of associations, nongovernmental organizations, religious organizations, and political parties. It ordered them to suspend all activities and to close their offices. My first reaction was to make an appeal to the co-interior ministers and to all levels of civil servants in my impromptu statement in order to rectify this incident.

H.E. Om Yinteng also phoned H.E. Prum Sokha this morning, who promised to issue an immediate correction, retaining only the part pertaining to some administrative aspects of the order.

So, the Interior Ministry is changing what it wanted to enforce when it first wrote the order to conform with what I said in my speech. In my opinion, the administrative procedures are minimal. It is normal practice to inform the authorities of your travels because the duty of the local authorities is to give you protection. For example, if we open an office, they have the right to provide us protection. The armed forces and the local authorities belong to no particular party. They have the duty to protect all of us. The police are the national police and not the police of any party. The same with the Military Police. Therefore, we should inform them of our whereabouts. Maybe the government only wants to ensure that it gets that cooperation. Other things, in my opinion, will have to wait until passage of the law on parties and associations, what other criteria they have to fulfill and so on. [passage omitted]

So, in my opinion, there is no need for the prime minister to issue a countermesssage to negate the decision of the coministers, for they are preparing to amend it. H.E. Prum Sokha has already discussed this with H.E. Sar Kheng. They whispered to me just now that it was already signed. So, you are invited to reopen the offices as you please.

[UPI and Australian Radio correspondent Tim Sarin] In your conversation at your farm with the elders from Kong Pisei, Bati, and Kandal Stoeng Districts on 1 May, you said you were investigating another assassination attempt, but you did not elaborate, only saying that if it was not through your health it would be an accident. Can you publicly describe this plan or scheme? Another question: On the same occasion you said that the results of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authorities in Cambodia] elections contained two mistakes, and you mentioned that this matter was merely suspended, not forgotten. Can you clarify this? Will you and the CPP revive the case if something happens?

[Hun Sen] About the first question, what will we accomplish if I talk now of the assassination plan? The investigation would come to an end, since the hypothesis becomes contestable. So we cannot say who wants to do it before the end of the investigation. It would be an unfounded accusation and a violation of rights if I name names. Therefore, we should not discuss it. Just let the authorities continue the inquiry. [passage omitted]

What I wanted to say was that there was talk recently that this party was the winner and that party the loser in the last elections. No one, however, has talked about the king's wise intervention. The situation was explosive in Phnom Penh at that time. Thanks to the king's wisdom, we reached a compromise to keep what we had. Now, the CPP is saying: Temporarily suspend the question about election irregularities. I do not want to dig up this problem, which was like a buried corpse. As I said, however, there was a tornado in the heart of Phnom Penh that blew off the cover to expose the corpse.

Do not go too far. If necessary, the CPP can rally other parties that have the same complaint as the CPP to discuss this matter. It is better not to, however, because we will move back to where we started if we reexamine the matter. This means that all will have to cling to their separate zones and organize new elections. So, everything would come to naught, like an off-side soccer game. It is better not to talk about who won and lost. Rather, talk about joining hands and working under the wise leadership of the king.

That is what the CPP wants to say, and I must say it. I must explain it to the people. We were forced to swallow something that was not logical. We will check all the documents again if necessary and demand the return of the ballots. I regret it everyday because UNTAC gave us only the ballot boxes for the Interior Ministry to use during the next elections when it left and did not leave behind the ballots of the 1993 elections. Why? Why was it afraid to leave them with us? Maybe the cross marks on the ballots were check marks instead?

It was not easy to instruct our people to cross the ballots. Some preferred to put circles, some crosses, and some checks. I do not accuse this or that party. It was a problem between all of the parties and UNTAC. [passage omitted]

Cambodia: Opposition Leader Urges End to War Against Khmer Rouge

BK0605050896 Hong Kong AFP in English
0355 GMT 6 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PHNOM PENH, May 6 (AFP) — The leader of Cambodia's banned opposition Khmer Nation Party (KNP) has called for an end to the "meaningless and bloody war" against the Khmer Rouge.

Sam Rangsai disputed an accusation by co-Premier Hun Sen that the royalist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party was responsible for the failure of the latest government offensive on the rebel base of Pailin. He said Hun Sen, leader of the formerly communist Cambodian People's Party (CPP), was to blame.

"Hun Sen needs a scapegoat because he knows that it is himself who must be held responsible for the latest military disaster which is undermining the government's stability," he said in a statement from Paris received Monday.

Thousands of fighters on both sides were killed or injured in this year's dry-season offensive which began in January but was halted short of Pailin in mid-April, ostensibly because of the onset of the monsoon.

Last week though, Hun Sen blamed the failure on "a great storm" which hit Phnom Penh in March — a reference to a threat from first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh to pull FUNCINPEC out of the government and possibly parliament.

"We had decided to take Pailin and end the occupation of the Khmer Rouge but we could not imagine that the political mistakes committed by just one political party could have created such great influences on the battlefield," Hun Sen said.

FUNCINPEC has not responded to the allegation, but Sam Rangsai called it "very unfair," saying the CPP must take at least some responsibility for the casualties as it had pushed for the offensive.

He also noted that previous offensives aimed at Pailin by both the current and former Vietnamese-backed governments, had ended in failure. "Was this also the fault of FUNCINPEC?" he asked, calling the most recent offensive "not well prepared."

"The reckless and politically-motivated decision to launch (the offensive) was made by Hun Sen regardless of the terrible sufferings of the rank-and-file soldiers and ordinary people," Sam Rangsi said.

"This decision has proved to be criminal," he said, adding that the war is enriching and consolidating the power of "a few leaders like Hun Sen" who spare their own children from having to go to battle at the expense of "children of poor peasants."

Sam Rangsi called on Hun Sen and the government "to abide by (King Norodom Sihanouk's) advice to end this meaningless and bloody war and to undertake the many structural reforms that are necessary to bring genuine and lasting peace to our unfortunate country."

Cambodia: Journalists Request King Clarify Comment Against Press

BK0505095096 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 3 May, Chum Karnal, chairman of the League of Cambodian Journalists (LCJ), sent a letter to his majesty the king. The letter said that in the name of the LCJ, a locally and internationally recognized nongovernment organization with representatives from 46 local newspapers, I, Chum Karnal, would like to inform your majesty of the concerns of a number of newspapers with regard to your following statement:

In point six of your majesty's statement, which was sent from France on 27 April, your majesty claimed a number of Cambodian newspapers were 'pro-Hun Sen' and 'pro-Cambodian People's Party.' You said these papers were hostile and unfair to your majesty.

I was told by many newspapers that this is a strange matter. Previously, your majesty had always shown your unbiased sympathy toward all your children, especially toward journalists. The term 'pro-this' or 'pro-that' raised by the father of national reconciliation in the current stage of national reconciliation is quite shocking. Your statement, which although not an outright accusation, does sound like one. Your majesty is claiming the newspapers have been hostile and unfair to your majesty. This has caused great concern to them. 'Hostility' or 'enmity' are certainly strong words to use against newspapers that have always followed your majesty's clear-sighted ideas, because they expressed an appropriate opinion within the framework of press freedom.

In conclusion, many journalists, who are LCJ members, have requested me to ask your majesty to kindly clarify your statement so that your children may again continue

to carry out their career. They have been concerned ever since they saw that statement.

On the occasion of International Press Freedom Day 3 May, the national journalists, and myself as LCJ chairman, would like to extend best wishes to your majesty the king and the supreme queen. May you live for over 100 years so as to forever be the cool shade for your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Indonesia

Indonesia Limiting Sea Lanes for Commercial, Military Ships

96SE0074B Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 12 Apr 96 p 7

[Text] Indonesia, which has asserted that it will limit three sea lanes for foreign ships, rejected fears that this will damage international trade and interfere with the freedom of movement of American warships.

According to yesterday's *ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL* (April 11), Wiryo Sastrohandoyo, Indonesia's new Ambassador to Australia, said that Indonesia has the right to regulate foreign ships in its waters. He spoke to reporters at the Indonesian embassy in his first interview since becoming Ambassador last month.

Wiryo said that Indonesia's plans to limit international commercial and military navigation in those three lanes in Indonesian waters is "normal, reasonable" and necessary.

The first of the three lanes which Indonesia will continue to keep open is between Sumatra and Java. The second is between Bali and Lombok, and the third is through the Molucca Sea into the Timor Sea and the Arafura Sea.

"In connection with those three lanes, I think that you will not find an unregulated situation," he said.

"I mean that you can enter at any point and exit from any point because these are Indonesian territorial waters and now we have the right to regulate them," he continued.

USA Objects

Wiryo said that Indonesia's plans are still open for discussion, but he asserted that Indonesia is not violating the Law of the Sea.

United States diplomats have objected to these plans, saying that the plans will limit the strategic capabilities of US warships, including the submarines and aircraft carriers which navigate those waters.

Australia also stated that the plans would produce unacceptable limitations on free passage for their submarines

and ships, and that Australian companies fear that shipping costs will rise because of those limitations. Some Japanese and Australian trade passes through Indonesian waters.

In Australia's opinion the proposal is a possible violation of the Law of the Sea.

Indonesia: Vice President Meets With Hungarian Assembly Speaker

BK0305085996 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Hungary and Indonesia have agreed to continue to enhance their political and economic relations. Zoltan Gal, speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, said this to reporters after paying a courtesy call on Vice President Try Sutrisno at the Merdeka Selatan Palace at noon. He said the enhancement of relations with Indonesia has become the priority of Hungary's foreign policy, designed to enhance cooperation with Southeast Asian countries. According to Zoltan Gal, Hungary and Indonesia have similar roles in Central Europe and Southeast Asia, respectively.

Meanwhile, Sumadi, the vice presidential chief of staff, said Zoltan Gal expressed condolences on the passing away of the first lady, Mrs. Suharto, on behalf of the Hungarian Government and people.

Indonesia: London Embassy Protests Irish Parliament Resolution

BK0305131096 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On behalf of the government, the Indonesian Embassy in London has lodged a protest with the Irish parliament speaker over the adoption of a resolution on 14 March 1996 questioning the validity of the 1969 Act of Free Choice — which integrated Irian Jaya into Indonesia.

A press release issued by the Directorate of Foreign Information Service of the Foreign Affairs Department received by Radio Republik Indonesia said that the protest note stated that the Act of Free Choice, conducted from 14 July to 14 August 1969, was endorsed by the UN General Assembly with the issuance of Resolution 2504 on 19 November 1969. Therefore, the Irish Parliament resolution, which questioned the validity of the Act of Free Choice, amounted to interference in Indonesia's domestic affairs.

Indonesia: TEMPO Interviews Former Opposition MP

BK0305142296 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 13 Apr 96

[Interview with Sri Bintang Pamungkas, former United Development Party MP, by TEMPO correspondents Toriq Hadad and Hani Pujiarti in Jakarta on 11 April — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted on Pamungkas' speech in Germany considered insulting to President Suharto]

[TEMPO] Do you think that the legal charge against you is aimed at discrediting you, PPP [United Development Party], and ICMI [Indonesian Muslim Intellectuals Association]?

[Pamungkas] The government wants to discredit me as well as PPP and ICMI because even now PPP still wants me to take part in the party's elections.

[TEMPO] Who are these PPP officials?

[Pamungkas] One of them is an old friend of mine. He is the head of the PPP Surakarta chapter. You know that PPP and PDI [Indonesian Democratic Party] are now facing tremendous external pressures, but this only shows how vulnerable Golkar [Functional Group] is. Golkar is getting weaker. Despite reports that PPP members in Sukabumi and Bondowoso have resigned en masse to join Golkar, their numbers are not as many as reported in the press. Therefore, I believe the decision to strip my parliamentary status is aimed at weakening PPP.

[TEMPO] Does it have anything to do with ICMI?

[Pamungkas] The real target was not me, but [Research and Technology Minister] Habibie. After that, you could see the dismissal of [Trade Minister] Billy Yodono and allegation against [Communications Minister] Haryanto Dhanutirto. I believe there was a plot against ICMI. However, even though I was an ICMI member, I did not always share Habibie's views.

[TEMPO] In what areas did you disagree with Habibie?

[Pamungkas] I did not share many of his ideas even though we maintain cordial relations. Habibie believes that intellectuals must adopt a stand in terms of science and technology while I believe that intellectuals must be responsive to the environment. There are also other differences of opinion. During the second ICMI congress, ICMI did not adopt a stand on the people's economic situation or the lottery issue to the point that I came to the conclusion that ICMI was power-oriented and its main mission was to support President Suharto. I always

told Habibie about the close ties between democracy and people's sovereignty.

[TEMPO] What does ICMI think of the legal charge against you?

[Pamungkas] When I was interrogated on 18 April 1995, ICMI official Imaduddin told me Habibie wanted to see me. Even though he wanted to delay the meeting, I arrived at Habibie's office at 1300. Habibie, [Education and Culture Minister] Wardiman, [economist] Emil Salim, and others were already there. Even though I was not invited, I went straight to see Habibie. During the meeting, we talked about ICMI congress agenda, the Permadi case [that he was accused of insulting Prophet Mohamed], and my own case. I told them about what really happened in Germany. They did not question me about my talks at the seminar in Germany and only asked me about the protest rally against President Suharto there. I told them that I wanted to resolve the legal charge against me without involving ICMI because after all ICMI did not sponsor my trip to Germany.

[TEMPO] Did you say ICMI did not sponsor your trip to Germany?

[Pamungkas] No. Earlier reports said ICMI had sponsored my trip. Even PDI members asked me if the report was true. The truth is that the Hanover University provided me with all the facilities I needed.

[TEMPO] Don't you think you have used strong language in your talks in Germany?

[Pamungkas] No, I did not talk about certain people though I talked about the causes of absolutism. Whoever practices the 1945 Constitution is bound to promote absolutism. Therefore, I believe the 1945 Constitution must be reviewed. One participant in the seminar in Germany noted that the late President Sukarno had called for the adoption of the 1945 Constitution. I stressed repeatedly that the 1945 Constitution must be reviewed and amended, but not by a revolution because it will destroy the fruits of development and we must start everything from square one.

[TEMPO] In this context, you also praised the fruits of development.

[Pamungkas] I did mention that our country is making progress with its development as shown from our 6 to 7 percent growth rate, but I also talked about our foreign debts and stressed that what we have achieved is inadequate.

[TEMPO] Some said a wrong system is the cause of the present situation. Others said it is caused by a president who continues to hold office. Your comments?

[Pamungkas] I believe both reasons are true. Both are closely related to the 1945 Constitution which has always promoted absolutism. I hope things will change if the system and the person undergo changes.

[TEMPO] Do you think you will win the legal case against you?

[Pamungkas] I have a fifty-fifty chance, but only if we have faith in an independent judiciary, which is not influenced by external pressures [laughter]. I must not say any more than this.

[TEMPO] Are you ready to be jailed?

[Pamungkas] I have asked people around me: can you bring a computer? In short, I am going to do something inside the prison. Even before you arrived, I was typing some documents about the establishment of a new party. The thing I want to know is whether I will be jailed as soon as the verdict is announced. My wife and children are ready for the worst. We are resigned to our fate and will even perhaps try to enjoy the experience. [passage omitted]

Thailand

Thai Official: WTO Support Expected Over U.S. Shrimp Ban

BK0305062696 Bangkok BANGKOK POST
in English 3 May 96 p 16

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand is confident a complaint to be filed over the U.S. decision to ban wild shrimps from Thailand will win World Trade Organisation (WTO) support, a senior Commerce Ministry official said.

The international trade policy committee must approve the final draft of the complaint before the ministry files it with the WTO.

Thailand has argued that the ban, which went into effect on Wednesday, is a violation of WTO agreements.

The U.S. embargo, designed to protect sea turtles, has banned the import of wild shrimp from any nations whose trawlers are not equipped with turtle excluder devices that allow turtles to escape easily from nets.

All of the ASEAN nations except Brunei are affected by the embargo.

The Fisheries Department has come up empty in talks with U.S. authorities aimed at giving Thai trawler operators more time to install the equipment.

The official said that in its complaint to the WTO, Thailand would cite a precedent setting case won by Thailand and involving a previous U.S. tuna embargo. A complaint was filed when the US banned tuna caught by Thai trawlers, saying their nets injured dolphins.

He said WTO regulations clearly state that internal legislation cannot be applied to other countries without international endorsement.

Thai Foreign Minister Backs Burma's Admission Into ARF

BK0305043396 Bangkok BANGKOK POST
in English 3 May 96 p 1

[Report by Nutsara Sawatsawang]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Burma should be admitted, without conditions, to the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) because of its eventual membership to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Foreign Minister Kasemsamson Kasemsi said yesterday.

"Some might object, but we in ASEAN think that it's necessary that all our members and all those eligible to become members are in the ARF, unconditionally," M.R. [royal title] Kasemsamson said.

He was referring to opposition by certain Western countries which advocate isolation of Burma to pressure its military leadership to respect human rights and to democratise.

"Who participates in the ARF is a matter for ASEAN to decide," he said.

"The ARF addresses only those issues relevant to us, East Asia and Asia-Pacific and no other areas," he said referring to a Thai saying that ASEAN will not "put lice in our hair" by getting involved in another country's business.

"If we can play that role, an important role, it will not only benefit ourselves but also contribute to the world community as a whole," he said of the security role of the ARF.

M.R. Kasemsamson left yesterday for a three-day official visit to the Philippines. He is due to call on President Fidel Ramos and meet with his counterpart Domingo Siazon.

Among a number of topics to be discussed, opening the forum for participation by more countries will be on the agenda with Mr Siazon, he said.

Burma has attended the annual meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers for the past two years as "guest of the host."

It acceded to ASEAN's main legal frame work — the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation — last year in Brunei as a first step towards full membership.

ASEAN is likely to grant observer status to Burma at this year's meeting of foreign ministers in Jakarta. This status automatically allows it to participate in the ARF.

The ASEAN Regional Forum was established two years ago as a "loose consultative forum" to discuss security in the Asia-Pacific region.

Nineteen countries are currently taking part — the seven ASEAN members; its seven dialogue partners — the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, the European Union; its two consultative partners — Russia and China; and its three observers — Papua New Guinea, Laos and Cambodia.

ASEAN wants to expand its membership by 2000 to include all 10 countries in Southeast Asia, envisioned as part of the grouping by its founding fathers. Laos and Cambodia have officially applied to join as full members next year.

Thailand: Investment Protection Accord Signed With Taiwan

BK0305102796 Bangkok KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT
in Thai 3 May 96 p 24

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taiwanese Foreign Ministry disclosed on 30 April that its representative and a Thai representative signed an informal agreement on protection of investment and trade. The agreement establishes a framework for contact between the two governments in the area of investment at the government level. The signing took place simultaneously in the capitals of both countries.

The agreement recognizes the right to demand compensation in accordance with the law, promotes repatriation of profits, facilitates tax benefits, and provides services to investors in each other's country.

According to a UNITED DAILY NEWS report, which cited a Taiwanese Foreign Ministry source, Taiwan made an announcement of the accord with Thailand only after it was signed because it wanted to minimize opposition from China while the vice chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission was on a visit to Thailand.

Thailand is the sixth ASEAN country to sign an investment protection agreement with Taiwan. It is the first agreement Taiwan has made following the recent Chinese military exercise.

Thailand: Burmese Groups Clashing on Border
BK0505111996 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION
in English 5 May 96 p A3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tak — The Karen National Union (KNU) went on the offensive yesterday, attacking a rebel Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) base on the Burmese border in a move to protect nearby Karen refugee camps in Thailand.

Backed by heavy machine-guns and mortars, 150 men of the KNU Seventh Division's 21st Battalion, led by Col Gyawpiew, moved against Pulupor base in Burma, opposite Ban Nong Luang in Tha Song Yang district.

KNU spokesmen said the DKBA lost two dead and four wounded in the hour-long battle before retreating northwards, deeper into Burma. One of the injured was a DKBA leader, Col Maung Saw.

The spokesmen said the offensive marked a change in tactics, which had previously been purely defensive. It was intended to cause disarray within DKBA ranks and weaken their capability to attack the refugees.

"This move will boost morale among the refugees and rid them of the daily fear of DKBA banditry," a spokesman said.

When Rangoon stopped giving assistance to the DKBA late last year the guerrillas went on a rampage through the camps, robbing, killing and injuring dozens of Karen refugees and damaging the property of Thai villagers living nearby.

In Mae Hong Son, six unidentified bandits yesterday robbed a group of Thai cattle traders near the border with Burma, fleeing with Bt (baht) 3 million, local police said.

Pol Lt Thiraphong Prungchitwithayaphon of Mae Hong Son police station said the robbery took place at Tambon Huai Pha in Muang district, five kilometres from the border. The Thai businessmen were travelling to purchase cattle in Burma when their vehicle was stopped by the bandits, one of the victims told police.

The six gunmen, armed with assault rifles, looked like terrorists, according to the victim's account.

Thailand: Burmese Refugees Face Shortage of Food
BK0305044496 Bangkok BANGKOK POST
in English 3 May 96 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tak — More than 4,000 Burmese refugees have suffered from shortage of food

as Thai border officials have not allowed a foreign non-governmental organisation to transfer food supplies across the border since March.

Victor Numan, a field coordinator of the Burmese Border Consortium (BBC), reportedly asked chief of the operational team for border camps Sarot Worarat to push for Thai authorities' permission for his agency to send food supplies to Mae Ta Raw Khee Camp in Burma.

According to the non-governmental organisation, Thai border officials have prohibited its staff from using a road in Umphang District for transferring food supplies to the camp since March this year.

The officials reportedly claimed the Interior Ministry has a policy to prevent food and arms transfers from Thailand to Burma so that ethnic rebels in Burma would not get support from across the border.

After a meeting with Mr Numan, Umphang District officials, Border Patrol Police and Umphang police agreed that the BBC will be allowed to transfer assistance to Burmese refugees with a letter issued by the Interior Ministry.

However, the BBC's Bangkok office has not yet received permission from the Interior Ministry so no food supplies are sent to the camp at present.

Thailand: Army Chief Concerned at Shelving of Sub Procurement

BK0305051396 Bangkok BANGKOK POST
in English 3 May 96 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] National security could be endangered if the Government used a political rationale in making judgments on security issues, said Army Commander Pramon Phalasin.

He said he was hopeful that the Government's decision to shelve the Navy's proposal to procure two diesel attack submarines from Kockums of Sweden did not stem from political reasons.

Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha has decided to shelve the Navy's procurement plan, worth around 17 billion baht, for another year for fear that it would help bloat the current account deficit.

However, a political source claimed that the Premier was concerned that if the Government gave its support to the Navy's proposal the Opposition might revive the bribery allegation made against the Government over the submarine procurement plan.

Henrick Westander, an arms export researcher with the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society, accused Kockums, the Swedish shipbuilder, of bribing key Chat Thai [Party] members prior to the last general election in the hope of winning the contract from the Government.

Gen Pramon said he hoped that the Government's decision on the issue would carry no political undertone.

"One should not mix national security with politics as it would affect the country's security," he said.

He defended the Navy's procurement plan saying that its acquisition would help improve the Navy's capabilities.

"The Navy will push the matter as long as it considers the submarines essential to safeguarding national security," said Gen Pramon.

"Nothing untoward may happen in the near future but we have to be prepared for any security risk," said the army commander who will retire in October.

Meanwhile, Navy Operations Department Director Rear Adm Thawisak Sommapha yesterday said the Government's decision to shelve the submarine procurement plan would affect the Navy's development plan.

He said over the past 14 years, the Navy conducted several studies and any delay in the procurement plan would cost the Government more money.

The officer denied press reports that the Navy had decided to procure A-19/Gotland Class vessels from Kockums.

"The Government had its own reasons for shelving the project. We have already done our duty," he said.

Thailand: 'National Interest' Reason for Postponing Submarine Order

BK0405105996 Bangkok BANGKOK POST
in English 4 May 96 p 3

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The decision to shelve the submarine order was taken in the national interest, the Supreme Commander said yesterday.

The Government was concerned the 17-billion-baht price tag on two diesel attack submarines would be too great a financial burden, said Gen Wirot Saengsanit.

"We all have to be reasonable and accept the Government has its own reason to shelve the project," said Gen Wirot, who is close to the Prime Minister.

The military had its reasons to strengthen its capabilities while the Government had to take other factors into consideration, not least the current account deficit.

Last year's deficit amounted to 335,700 million baht, or 8.1 percent of gross domestic product.

Adm [Admiral] Winyan Santiwisat, deputy commander-in-chief, understood the decision and said the submarine proposal would surface again next year.

Insisting the acquisition was essential to the Navy which had an initial plan to put four submarines into service in the next decade, he said the decision would affect strategic planning and cost the taxpayer more in the long run.

Adm Winai Intharasombat, Chief-of-Staff, said no reason had been given for the decision. The Budget Bureau only said the project could not be implemented in the next fiscal year.

"The submarine plan might be under a curse," he said. "Not only the last government but also this government have not approved the plan," he said.

Adm Prachet Siridet, who retires as Commander in September, said he had done his best.

Thailand: Armed Forces To Call 'Truce' Over Government Spending Plans

BK0405115596 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES
in English 4 May 96 p A1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok: There were signs yesterday the military is willing to call a truce with the government over the controversial arms spending plans.

Supreme Commander Wirot Saengsanit conceded yesterday, "Security must adapt to national economics."

He said the armed forces had to consider the good of the country.

Analysts and government ministers, notably Deputy Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat, have said the forces' huge budget demands threaten to stymie government efforts to bring down the current account deficit. The coalition has set itself a five-year goal to bring the deficit from its current rate of 8.1 percent of GDP down to 3.0 percent.

"We will not be stubborn," Wirot said. "If the economy remains bad, we don't mind delaying projects."

The forces are pushing for an estimated 74.4 billion baht to buy military satellites, submarines, tanks, jet fighters and other equipment. Last year's total defense budget was around 9.1 billion baht, only ten percent of which could go on new purchases.

Defense Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut, a vehement supporter of the satellite project, earlier warned the government and others not to interfere in military spending. He also denied the acquisitions would affect the deficit, saying they would be bought using counter-trade (a form of barter) and blaming the deficit on affluent Thais buying imported goods and spending all their money abroad.

It was clear yesterday that any concessions were reluctant. Wirot said the capacity of the armed forces risked being seriously compromised.

"If our neighbors have better weapons they can hit our heads as many times as they want," the Supreme Commander said.

Navy Commander Prachet Siridet said the Navy needed to be prepared for unexpected situations at all times.

He cited the example of Kuwait, who did not ready themselves for war and could not defend themselves against Iraq's invasion.

"Who knows when there will be another Saddam Husayn?" he said.

Thailand: Military Claims Suspending Sub Purchase 'Regrettable'

BK0405120396 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
4 May 96 p A2

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Military leaders yesterday regretted Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha's decision to suspend the planned purchase of two submarines.

Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm [Admiral] Prachet Siridet confirmed the Navy's position that the commissioning of submarines was vital to national security.

The admiral said the Gulf of Thailand was particularly vulnerable and would be difficult to defend from an amphibious landing by an intruder.

"If we are not well-armed, some neighbouring country could become belligerent towards us."

"People like Saddam Husayn still exist, and if they emerge some day, especially in the South Asia region, Thailand could become a second Kuwait. We can't counterattack with only our hands," he said.

Banhan has suspended for one year the planned purchase of two A-19 Gotland-Class attack submarines from Sweden's Kockums group. The reason given was that the Bt(Thai baht) 17 billion purchase would worsen the country's severe account deficit, which stood at Bt335.7 billion last year.

Navy Deputy Commander Adm Winyan Santiwisat said the suspension was politically influenced, and that the price would rise another eight to 10 per cent next year.

He said Banhan's decision was regrettable because the time needed to manufacture the subs, five years, as well as another two years for training the vessels' crew, would be lost.

Winyan said the government should have allocated a portion of the budget meant for the subs to the Navy to purchase minesweepers and light cruisers.

Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Siriphong Thongyai said the suspension of the purchase would affect national security, but the government had the right to do so.

He urged the public not to associate the decision with politics, and said he believed the relationship between the government and the Armed Forces would not be affected by Banhan's suspension order.

"The government can be compared to the parents giving the children an assignment to do. They can change their mind and have the money spent on other things they think are more important," he said.

However, he said the government must be responsible if a problem arose in the future.

Supreme Commander Gen Wirot Saengsanit said the Armed Forces understood that the necessity of the suspension order stemmed from financial problems.

Thailand: Prime Minister Denies Postponing Navy Submarine Purchase

BK0505101696 Bangkok *THE SUNDAY NATION*
in English 5 May 96 p A1

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha yesterday denied he had postponed a decision on the proposed purchase of two submarines for the Navy.

He said he had not yet formally received the Navy's request.

"We have talked about the issue for nine months, but I have not yet seen a formal request," the prime minister said.

However, there were purchase proposals from all branches of the armed services. They could not all be approved immediately.

The armed forces needed weapons to protect the country, but they could not each buy all they needed at the

same time. If the submarine purchase and the Supreme Command's military satellite project were approved, other purchases would have to be put off because the government's budget was limited.

"The Navy wants to buy submarines. The Air Force wants to buy jet fighters. And Thai Airways wants to buy airliners.

"If they all want to buy their requirements at the same time, we have to ask ourselves whether we have enough money," the prime minister said.

News reports last week said that Banhan had postponed a decision on the planned purchase of two submarines from Swedish firm Kockums for one year.

The reason given was that the Bt[Baht] 17 billion purchase would worsen the country's current account deficit, which stood at Bt335.7 billion last year.

The reports prompted military leaders to criticise the prime minister.

Banhan said yesterday that the government had to consider the economic situation before making a decision on the submarine and satellite projects.

No project could have a budget commitment of more than five years, and counter-trade must be part of the deal for purchases of more than Bt1 billion.

The Defence Ministry has asked the Cabinet to approve the satellite system in principle, but Banhan said Cabinet Secretary-General Witsanu Khrua-ngam had not yet put the request on the Cabinet agenda. The Army wants to equip its troops with new assault rifles, while the Air Force is pushing for F-18 fighters. [passage omitted]

Thailand: Prime Minister Vows To 'Clear Up' Satellite Debate

BK0505102596 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES
in English 5 May 96 p A1

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok — Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha said yesterday he will call a meeting to clear up the issue of the much-maligned Star of Siam military satellite project after the no-confidence debate this week.

The premier added he was willing to approve the military's plan to launch the two communications satellites, at an estimated cost of 26 billion baht, if it could be shown to be an urgent necessity.

The final say on whether the forces can have the satellite — just one of a package of arms-purchase requests made by the military — lies with the government.

Several factors, including economics, must be taken into account in making the decision, said Banhan. He added that the planned meeting would include all agencies concerned, including economic ministers.

Banhan said one factor which could help the military's plans would be if other government agencies were willing to take budget cuts to finance them. He said he would seek the other agencies' opinion in the meeting.

Supreme Commander Wirot Saengsanit's uncompromising stance on the plans softened considerably on Friday, when he conceded he would be willing to shelve them for a while if the national economy was not strong enough.

Many MPs and academics have said the military's 74-billion-baht spending plans, if approved, could have a serious impact on plans to bring down the current account deficit down from 8.1 to 3.0 percent of GDP.

Banhan said both the supreme commander and Defense Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut understood very well that military budget requests need to pass through many stages of consultation and consideration, even after the Cabinet has approved them in principle.

Banhan said the issue of the satellites was already in the hands of Cabinet secretary-general Witsanu Khrua-ngam, but the submarines had not yet been proposed for consideration in a Cabinet meeting.

He said he had not seen any proposals to purchase the submarines since the project first became a target of criticism a few months ago.

Thailand: Budgetary Constraints To Delay Arms Purchases

BK0605042996 Bangkok BANGKOK POST
in English 6 May 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government has instructed the Royal Thai Air Force to suspend the acquisition of the second batch of eight F-18 jet fighters for one or two years because of budgetary constraints.

Air Force Chief-of-Staff ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Amon Neamali, in his capacity as chairman of the procurement committee, told the BANGKOK POST that the Budget Bureau recently informed the Air Force of the decision to suspend the acquisition of the second batch of the aircraft because the Government thought it would not have enough budget to finance the procurement in the next one to two years.

However, he said he expected no such problems for the planned acquisition of the first batch of eight F-18s likely to be delivered in the next four years.

The Air Force, said ACM Amon, has been negotiating with the United States for the purchase of the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAM) for the fighters.

The Air Force plans to acquire a squadron of 16 F-18s to be purchased in two batches of eight each. Budget for the first batch, amounting to about 10 billion baht and to be spread over five years beginning 1996, is yet to be finalised by the Cabinet. The second batch will cost another eight billion baht.

A highly-placed source in the Supreme Command told the BANGKOK POST that Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha, aware of the sensitive issue, was concerned that the commanders of the three armed forces might misunderstand the Government's decision to trim the defence spending.

The Premier, said the source, asked Supreme Commander Gen Wirot Saengsanit to try to talk to Navy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Prachet Siridet and Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM Siriphong Thongyai about the financial problems facing the Government.

Mr Banhan asked Gen Wirot to arrange for a meeting with the three commanders-in-chief, said the source.

Gen Wirot, meanwhile, said he understood how the military leaders felt when their arms procurement plans were trimmed down. He, however, said the military should have sympathy for the Government as well.

Despite the budgetary constraints, he praised the Government for granting another one billion baht to the three armed forces to fund their defence programmes.

Because of the economic situation, Gen Wirot said it was necessary that the defence programmes of all the armed forces, including the communication satellite project, would have to be reviewed.

He admitted that Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut who has been pressing for the satellite project might not be happy if the project was postponed.

Vietnam

SRV: Agreement To 'Restore Order' in Fishing Made With Thailand

BK0405101496 Hanoi VNA in English
0812 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA May 4 — Vietnam and Thailand have agreed on the need to restore order

in the fishing industry in the Gulf of Thailand so that both countries benefit from deep-sea fishing.

The peaceful solution was made possible by talks between Vietnamese and Thai delegations to the second meeting of the Joint Vietnamese-Thai Commission on the restoration of sea fishing order.

The Vietnamese and Thai delegations to the meeting, organised in Bangkok on Tuesday, were headed respectively by Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan and Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Charat Phuachai.

The two sides said that order at sea needed to be restored immediately on the basis of principles already reached between the two governments.

Both sides need not resort to force to settle the problems, they said.

Measures for possible joint action included joint patrols, establishment of communication channels accessible to both sides and dissemination of information about mutual fishing benefits and fishing regulations in the Gulf of Thailand to fishermen in both Vietnam and Thailand.

The two sides discussed several forms of co-operation in transfer of technology, upgrading the fishing capacity of fishing trawlers, sea food processing and joint conduct of surveys on sea food resources in the overlapping sea areas.

Earlier two groups of Vietnamese and Thai specialists had met in Chiang Mai, Thailand, to discuss how to delineate the overlapping of the sea waters in the Gulf of Thailand.

SRV: Economic Cooperation With Thailand Reviewed

BK0205130096 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 2 May 96

[Station Commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vietnam and Thailand at the end of last month continued their on-going discussion on economic cooperation and restoring order in the fishing industry in common waters and the Gulf of Thailand. The talks were at the further session of the Joint Economic Cooperation Committee and the second session of the Committee for Restoring Sea Order and Fishing Industry. Our radio commentator has more to say.

At the session of the Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation, the two countries were pleased to see the development of bilateral comprehensive cooperation since

the second session in May 1993. They again discussed measures to further promote bilateral cooperation in accordance with their potential. Two-way trade turnover most recently reached \$509 million, tripling last year figures. Bangkok and Hanoi last month agreed to double the figures by 1997.

Vietnam and Thailand also agreed to promote investment by Thai companies in major projects in Vietnam. By early this year, Thailand ranked twelve among foreign investors in Vietnam with 58 projects capitalized at approximately \$500 million. In 1995 alone, Thailand invested \$220 million in 15 projects in Vietnam. Both sides appreciated the results of the cooperative development program with Thailand's assistance in agriculture, education, public health, industry, and communications and transport; and expected Thailand to expand its assistance to other fields such as biology, electronics, and the environment. Thailand has provided Vietnam with \$60 million in the 1995-97 fiscal year to implement projects in recent years. The two countries are considering a comprehensive forestry project in the northern province of Ha Bac and growing orchards in the southern province of Tien Giang.

Vietnam and Thailand laid stress on cooperation in transport, including the construction of Highway 9, an east-west corridor, and the Trans-Asia railway. The session also appreciated the signing of an agreement on cultural cooperation between Vietnam and Thailand on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Vietnam-Thailand diplomatic relations, August 1986, and other measures to step up bilateral cooperation. The two sides exchanged views on cooperation in fishing, especially in technology transfer to increase the capability of trawlers and marine product processing, and in conducting joint survey of marine potential in overlapping areas in the Gulf of Thailand.

SRV: Meetings on Economic Cooperation With Thailand Detailed

BK0105155396 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 1 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The third meeting of the Joint Vietnam-Thailand Committee on Economic Cooperation and the second meeting of the Joint Vietnam-Thailand Committee on Reestablishment of Maritime and Fishery Order were held in Bangkok, Thailand from 27-30 April.

The Thai delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Charat Phuachuai and the Vietnamese delegation by Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan. Present at these meetings were representatives of various relevant ministries and sectors of the two countries.

At the meeting of the joint committee on economic cooperation, the two sides noted with pleasure the various aspects of development since their second meeting in May 1993; they exchanged specific measures aimed at further increasing the cooperation between the two countries. It was reported that the value of bilateral trade increased three-fold, amounting to \$509 million in 1995, and that the two sides agreed to strive to double the current volume of trade by 1997.

The two sides affirmed the need to increase investment activities, particularly investment from Thai companies in various major projects in Vietnam.

The two sides highly valued the results of the program for development cooperation with Thai assistance in the areas of agriculture, education, public health, industry, communications, and transportation and expressed the hope to expand to other areas such as biology, electronics, environment, etc.

The meeting assigned a technical cooperation subcommittee to study a joint project on forestry in Khuan Than of Ha Bac Province and another joint project on fruit trees in Tien Giang Province.

SRV: Scientific, Technological Cooperation Talks Held With ROK

BK0405095996 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA May 4 — Vietnamese Minister of Science, Technology, and Environment Dang Huu held talks here yesterday with his South Korean counterpart Chung Kun-mo on scientific and technological cooperation between Vietnam and the Republic of Korea.

Present at the talks were also Prof. Dr. Dang Vu Minh, director of the Vietnam National Center for Science and Technology, Pham Khoi Nguyen, deputy minister of science, technology, and environment and representatives from the Foreign Ministry, and Vietnamese and Korean scientists.

The ministers spoke of necessary and concrete issues on the expansion of scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

They also discussed issues of common concern with an aim to implementing an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation signed between the two countries covering atomic energy, information technology, scientific and technological information, scientific and technological management and exchange of experts.

Korean Ambassador to Vietnam Kim Bong-kyu was also present at the talks.

SRV: Foreign Bible Preachers Deported for Illegal Activities

BK0505113996 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Education and Training recently sent an official correspondence to universities, colleges, and vocational training schools nationwide to inform them that foreign nationals have been engaged in illegal Bible teaching to Hanoi university students.

The incident involved two South Koreans who took advantage of their Vietnamese language study at the Hanoi National University to illegally provide Bible teaching to 54 Hanoi university students. They organized get-acquainted meetings, provided students with weekly financial aid valued at 30,000-50,000 dong, and rented a house for students to attend religious preaching and participate in Wednesday evening and Sunday meetings for hymn chanting, Bible reading, and religious preaching.

The Hanoi City public security service deported the two violators before the expiration of their entry visas and confiscated their Bible preaching materials.

SRV Radio Commentary Hails Cooperation With Philippines

BK0605144396 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 6 May 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Scientists from Vietnam and the Philippines have for the first time conducted a joint research in the Eastern Sea [China Sea] in an area from Malaysia to Ho Chi Minh City. Following is our review of the event as well comments on relations between Vietnam and the Philippines:

The initial outcome of the joint research was made public at the seminar held recently in Ho Chi Minh City. Almost 40 scientists from Vietnam and the Philippines attended the seminar. According to initial studies, the biological resources in the Eastern Sea are various and diversified and need to be protected, especially the coral ecology. Cooperation in the field will continue with initial outcome very promising.

Vietnam and the Philippines have set cultural and commercial ties for quite a long time. Diplomatic relations between the two countries started in 1976. In recent years, relations and cooperation between the two countries have boomed. Senior leaders from both sides have exchanged visits in order to strengthen mutual understanding and confidence, thus creating conditions for the development of economic and trade cooperation.

Two-way trade turnover increased from \$12 million in 1990 to \$16 million in 1995. The Philippines now has 13 projects in Vietnam with the total investment of nearly \$70 million, ranking 20th among foreign investors in Vietnam. Bilateral agreements for cooperation in economics, science, and technology, trade, navigation, and aviation as well as the agreement on investment protection and encouragement have been implemented successfully.

The Vietnam-Filipino Inter-Governmental Committee for Cooperation has been set up and operated effectively. The two countries (have pledged) to strengthen cooperation in agriculture, industry, agricultural product processing, aquaculture, culture, tourism, and in personnel training of management of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Philippines has expressed the readiness to cooperate and assist Vietnam in areas, which the Philippines has a lot of experience. For its part, Vietnam hopes that in the coming period, cooperation and relations between the two countries will be expanded to other fields.

SRV: ADB Grants Loans for Credit, Environmental Protection

BK0505093296 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 4 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Asia Development Bank plans to loan Vietnam \$50 million during 40 years with one percent interest rate to serve credit projects in rural areas as from 1997. ADB also lends Vietnam \$25 million in 1997 fiscal year to implement a project for environmental protection in Ho Chi Minh City.

SRV: Second Group of Vietnamese Refugees Returned From Malaysia

BK0505144896 Hanoi VNA in English 1425 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA May 5 — The second group of Vietnamese refugees repatriated by sea from Malaysia arrived at Cat So Port in the southern province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau yesterday.

Out of 126 refugees returning home this time, 50 are natives of Ho Chi Minh City, one of Ba Ria-Vung Tau province and one of the central province of Thua Thien-Hue, while the rest originated from seven provinces in Southern Vietnam.

The first batch of Vietnamese refugees repatriated from Malaysia by sea included 317 people. They landed at the same port on April 21.

SRV: Prime Minister Urges Developing Bien Hoa Industrial Zone

BK0205150596 Hanoi VNA in English
1239 GMT 2 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA May 2 - Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has urged local authorities and relevant ministries to transform the Bien Hoa Industrial Zone into a master development and management plan approved by the government as soon as possible.

'At present, in the process of industrialization and modernization, the Bien Hoa Industrial Zone continues to play an important role in the development of a key economic triangle between Ho Chi Minh City, Dong Nai and Ba Ria-Vung Tau. So, it is urgent to transform and develop it under a proper plan aimed at making full use of its potential,' the PM was quoted as saying at a working session with leading officials of Dong Nai province, the Ministries of Industry and Construction and other concerned government offices on April 29.

PM Kiet toured Dong Nai and HCM City to inspect the Bien Hoa Industrial Zone and the designated location for the construction of a bridge over the Saigon River into the heart of the Thu Thiem Urban Centre, east of HCM City.

He also ordered relevant ministries and local authorities to begin the implementation of the approved plan, and not discuss any changes for the set plan on the development of the Bien Hoa Industrial Zone.

The Pm Called for more efforts to re-organize all businesses and enterprises in the area in a proper manner with the aim of minimizing environmental pollution and making full use of existing facilities. This should be done hand in hand with the gradual modernization of technical equipment for all enterprises, he said.

'Any enterprises which are now operating at a loss or renting their land sites to private producers should renew their production plans or incorporate with other units in order to return the sites to the government to be used for higher economic efficiency. Dong Nai province will soon implement a plan to move more than 800 households from the industrial zone to help exercise stricter control of the area,' the PM stressed.

'At the same time, it if necessary to develop projects for additional investment to build, upgrade and maintain technical facilities and infrastructure, expand social welfare projects and plant trees to keep the area green and clean,' Mr Kiet was quoted as saying.

The Bien Hoa Industrial Zone was set up in 1963. It covers an area of 328 ha and employs about 20,000 people working at 55 centrally-run enterprises, 12 locally-

run enterprises and 13 foreign-invested businesses. Last year, the zone contributed VND [dong] 215 billion to the state budget, representing 23.4 percent of the budget revenue of the province.

However, environmental pollution is now on the rise. There is no waste water treatment system for the whole area and no landfill for hard disposals, putting the regional environment in danger of serious pollution by industrial production.

SRV: Son La Province Installs Television Relay Stations

BK0205033496 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Son La Province has put seven more television relay stations into operation. The funds for each station — amounting to 80-300 million dong — were drawn from the state budget and contributions by local people. Altogether, Son La has installed 26 television relay stations, including 16 in deep or remote areas and former revolutionary bases. The province has also shipped 200 color television sets as gifts from the government to compatriots in mountain hamlets and villages and has used the local budget to purchase video cassette recorders and generators for a number of border checkpoints and villages.

SRV: Progress of Workers, Trade Union Reviewed

BK0505092896 Hanoi VNA in English
0532 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA May 5 - The Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL) has drawn the participation of nearly 3.29 million members, the highest number of its membership to date, from 35,184 grassroot trade unions, Mr. Nguyen Van Tu, president of the VGCL has announced.

Vietnam's workers account for over six million or nearly 16 percent of the nation's workforce, and are involved in industrial production and the services sector.

Workers in the state-run sector who account for nearly three million of the total, have played a key role in making state-run businesses a decisive factor in the national economy.

The number of labourers engaging in service activities and infrastructural development projects of the private economic sector and foreign invested enterprises have increased rapidly, which at present stood at over 120,000.

The increase in Vietnamese workers is attached to the growth of their trade unions. Over the past ten years of

the national renovation initiated by the Communist Party of Vietnam the organisation has gradually renovated its operation's contents and methods in order to gather, educate, and train the working class.

At its sixth congress, the VGCL set itself a goal of renovating thought and theory on trade union tasks, thus paving the way for defining new functions of Vietnam's trade unions with the central task of protecting legal rights of labourers. At the same time, the organisation addressed the emphasis of engaging in managing and training its members. These functions have been elaborated in the trade union law passed by the national assembly in 1990.

The whole country at present has 25 trade unions with trade union activities strongly developed along with the diversification of social activities. Raising charity and talent and initiative supporting funds, the establishment of employment centres and implementation of hunger elimination and poverty alleviation projects have become regular activities of the trade union sys-

tem throughout the country, positively contributing to job generation and improvement of labouring people's living conditions.

The trade union's activities of caring for the interest of labouring people have constantly become part of life. They encourage workers to improve their knowledge and skill to thoroughly master new technology, and increase labour efficiency as a basis for individual and national enrichment.

However, Mr. Tu admitted that the number of labour disputes and collective reaction cases has had a tendency to increase, with this phenomenon sprouting in the past 10 years. To face the present situation, trade unions at various levels should pay more attention to this problem and ask the national assembly and the state to rapidly issue documents on guidance for implementation of the labour code, the trade union law, and have measures to strictly punish employers who break the law and ill-treat workers and other labouring people.

Australia

Australia: Government To Aid Clearing Land Mines in Cambodia, Laos

BK0505122796 Melbourne Radio Australia
in English 1100 GMT 5 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Australian Government is to spend 12 million Australian dollars over the next three years clearing land mines in Cambodia and Laos. Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer says he is disappointed that last week's Geneva Conference on Inhumane Weapons Convention did not support Australia's call for global ban on the use, production, and stockpiling of land mines. Mr. Downer says the aid program announced today will make Australia one of the main donors in de-mining efforts in Indochina. He says the funding will allow the process of mine clearing in Cambodia and Laos to be accelerated and Australian diplomats will encourage other countries to give financial support.

Australia: Defense Force To Play Bigger Role in Regional Security

BK0505133696 Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING
HERALD in English 4 May 96

[Report by Defense Correspondent David Lague — money figures in Australian dollars]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Howard Government is planning a sweeping shift in defence policy to give a more powerful Australian Defence Force (ADF) a bigger role in preserving regional security.

This is a sharp departure from Labor's policy, which directed the Australian military to prepare to resist small-scale raids on the Australian continent, despite the remote prospect of these attacks.

Analysts believe the new policy and increasing tensions in the Asia-Pacific region will force a Coalition Government to increase defence spending by the end of the decade.

The Prime Minister has quarantined the \$10 billion defence budget from a razor gang intent on slashing up to \$8 billion from Commonwealth outlays.

The Minister for Defence, Mr McLachlan, said yesterday the core responsibility for the ADF was the defence of Australia, but it also needed the firepower to contribute to maintaining stability in Asia.

"Australia's defence does not begin at our coastline. On the contrary, we cannot be secure if the region is unstable. Australia cannot be adequately defended only by guarding our territory and by merely looking on at the changes sweeping through Asia."

In his first major policy speech since the Coalition won office, Mr McLachlan signalled he was willing to define Australia's security interests far more broadly than had his Labor predecessors, Mr Beazley, and Senator Robert Ray.

Mr McLachlan told a regional security conference in Canberra there were many potential flashpoints in the Asia-Pacific region, including friction between China and Taiwan and North and South Korea. There were also many border disputes, competing claims over land and sea, piracy, internal insurgencies and a range of longstanding enmities arising from religious or ethnic conflicts.

"All of these remain potential threats to peace and stability," he said. "Our approach to Australia's defence and security therefore needs to use a wide definition of our interests."

"Trade access, freedom of navigation over air and sea routes and the security of our neighbours are all crucial interests."

Earlier, one of the architects of defence policy under Labor, Professor Paul Dibb, told the conference there was an unreal "peace in our time" view in some parts of the region just as a major post-Cold War shift in the balance of power was under way.

Mr McLachlan said his first priority would be to boost the ADF's firepower at a time when regional military forces were expanding. The Government was proposing to save \$125 million a year over the next three years in administration costs, and this would be redirected to combat capabilities.

The Government would shift resources to sea and air forces that could detect and attack potential aggressors offshore and re-establish the army's ability to deploy highly capable forces. He predicted that increased security co-operation with allies including the United States, New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia would increase pressure on the defence budget.

Australia: Government Agrees To Sell Military Supplies to PNG

BK0505135896 Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING
HERALD in English 4 May 96

[Report by Craig Skehan in Canberra—received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Australian Government has agreed to sell Papua New Guinea (PNG) an additional \$200,000 of military supplies — including body

armour — despite opposition to the PNG Government's lifting of a ceasefire on the strife-torn island of Bougainville.

Human rights groups in Australia and PNG have criticised Australian military assistance to PNG as prolonging violence on Bougainville and reducing pressure on PNG to make concessions aimed at securing a lasting peace.

When the PNG Government on March 21 announced the lifting of an 18-month-old cease-fire, the Australian Foreign Minister, Mr Downer, was publicly critical.

Yesterday after talks in Port Moresby, Mr Downer said there could only be a political solution to the eight-year civil war, which has claimed thousands of lives.

"Tempting as that may be at times, in the end there is no military solution to it," he said.

Mr Downer said Australia stood ready to assist efforts to reconvene peace talks.

When the ceasefire was lifted, the PNG Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, foreshadowed a request to Australia for additional military aid to assist increased troop deployments in Bougainville.

Sources said that last month the PNG Defence Force put a formal aid request to Australia and provided a list of items, other than weapons, it wanted.

One senior official said Australia reiterated its opposition to the lifting of the Bougainville ceasefire and stated that no additional military supplies would be provided as aid.

"What they said is give us more," one Australian official said. "What we said is you can have more, but you buy it."

There had been prior arrangements in place for PNG to purchase defence supplies on top of assistance provided under Australia's annual \$16 million defence co-operation aid arrangements.

The PNG shopping list provided to Australia included body armour, which is vital in jungle warfare, where the risk of snipers and ambush are high, as well as supplies such as mosquito nets, first aid kits and tents.

Officials said Australia "ticked" off various items it was in a position to supply, including body armour.

Bougainville Revolutionary Army rebels have called for a United Nations-sponsored observer force to be sent to Bougainville in an attempt to end the civil conflict.

Sir Julius has since said that the lifting of the ceasefire was purely an issue of law enforcement and did not mean peace talks could not continue.

The escalation of hostilities in Bougainville has exacerbated tensions with the Solomon Islands, which the PNG Government says is used by "criminal" rebels as a sanctuary.

Mr Downer yesterday described the conflict as a terrible drain on PNG's resources.

"We abhor the killings and the atrocities. We urge all those who are concerned to renew efforts for a peaceful solution."

Australia: Minister Outlines Government's Priorities for Defense Force

BK0305092096 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 3 May 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's defense minister, Ian McLachlan, has announced the two-month-old Coalition Government's priorities for the Australian Defense Forces in the year 2000. Mr. McLachlan says the government aims to increase the forces' combat capability while not increasing the overall defense budget. Mr. McLachlan says there will be cuts of \$100 million [Australian dollars] a year over the next three years in defense administration, and those savings will be redirected to combat areas. About 1,200 administrative and civilian defense jobs are expected to be cut. The defense minister says while there is no foreseeable threat to Australia it can't ignore the increasing size of military forces in the Asia-Pacific region. The minister says he'll look at ways to reinstate the capability lost in the land forces when the previous government closed down two regular army battalions. Mr. McLachlan says other goals are to reduce the loss of highly specialized defense staff to other employers and improved security cooperation with Australia's allies and regional friends.

Australia: Foreign Minister Views Regional Security

BK0305100196 (Internet) Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade WWW in English 2 May 96

[Address by Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer at a conference on "The New Security Agenda in the Asia Pacific Region" in Canberra on 2 May: "Security Through Cooperation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Introduction]

The Asia Pacific region is Australia's place. It is the area where we make and establish many of our international friendships. And it is where we must build the secure, safe environment which is a prerequisite for the prosperity and quality of life we seek for all Australians. When the Australian Government says that

closer engagement with Asia is its highest foreign policy priority, it means that this country is unequivocally committed to our region and is committed to finding its prosperity and security here, 'right where we belong'.

Australia finds and builds its future prosperity by developing its export markets and so creating jobs for Australians and long term economic security. Australia strives to guarantee security in the Asia Pacific region by cementing its friendships with other nations and works to create a stable and secure environment where this country and each country of the region can similarly flourish and be at peace.

Principally Australia does so by contributing to the security of our region through cooperation. This is clearly critical to Australia's long term national security. Australia will not be fully secure — it will not be free from the threat of military conflict, nor from other non-military threats to our physical security — if our own region experiences turmoil or conflict.

Australia therefore, needs to take a long term view of security and maintaining stability in the Asia Pacific. The country must be hard-headed about our security environment, about the influence Australia can bring to bear on regional developments, and realistic about the role Australia should play in the region. Today I want to outline briefly the key elements of Australia's foreign policy approach to regional security. First, with reference to current developments in the Asia Pacific region and secondly, by outlining the new Australian Government's plans to enhance regional security cooperation.

The Asia-Pacific Security Landscape

The first point to be made about the present security environment in the Asia Pacific is perhaps the most obvious: the Asia Pacific region is in the process of profound transformation. This is in part the result of the end of the Cold War. It is also a by-product of the dramatic increase in regional economic interaction over the past ten to fifteen years, and the sustained high rates of economic growth recorded by so many regional countries.

These rapid economic changes are worth dwelling on. Asian countries have compressed into 50 years the Industrial Revolution which the West took 200 years to complete. On average, Asian economies grew 6 per cent last year, compared to 2.8 per cent in Western Europe and 2.7 per cent in the United States.

By the year 2020, if growth continues near its recent pace, and I believe it will be, China will have the world's largest economy with Japan, India, Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand in the top ten. This has lead

to vast changes within these societies, and will continue to do so, which heralds even further economic and social development. The World Bank estimates that per capita incomes in East Asia nearly quadrupled over the last 25 years despite growing populations. Together, these vast changes in the region have profound implications for its security.

Implications of the End of the Cold War

The cessation of the Cold War marked the end of the post World War Two security architecture, which was characterised by overarching and global competition between the United States and the USSR. Its passing has, inevitably, generated a range of new security challenges.

First, there are now more major players in the region. Japan, China, Korea, Indonesia, and increasingly India, are all growing powers and a major consequence of this is that all countries in the region must now work very carefully through the implications of more complex security relationships. United States involvement in the region remains the single most important factor in regional strategic planning and, of course, is crucial to the region's stability. The US-Japan relationship is clearly the most important single bilateral linkage in the region, but other relationships are now rightly receiving increased analytical attention.

Secondly, within the region there are a number of unresolved issues which have the potential to develop into disputes affecting national and/or sub-regional security. These quarrels are to be found both within States and between States. The primary issues of concern are well known: ongoing antagonism between the Republic of Korea and the DPRK; competition in the South China Sea; uneasiness between China and Taiwan; and continued instability in Cambodia. They require us to be both vigilant and pro-active in contributing to their resolution.

Thirdly, a range of non-military challenges to Australia's physical security have also come to prominence in recent years: threats to the environment, the international narcotics trade, transnational epidemics and unregulated population movements are examples of the sorts of issues that require global and regional cooperative solutions.

Economic Dynamism and Security Relations

The region's economic transformation has also had a significant impact on regional security relations. The relationships between economic growth, economic interdependence and security are extremely complex and, in the case of the Asia Pacific, the full implications

of economic development and economic interaction for regional stability have yet to unfold.

Over the past two decades, intra-regional trade has grown dramatically. Countries in the Asia Pacific are now much more economically interdependent and consequently familiar with each other. This increase in trade has brought people together from a wide range of regional countries and increased the extent to which economic interaction has significantly helped to reduce the potential for conflict in the Asia Pacific region. Yet growth and interaction bring with it other challenges. Over the longer term economic development will lead to shifts in relative power and is likely to have an impact on the pattern of regional security relations. Economic development is already giving Asia Pacific governments the means to acquire greater defensive capacities than in the past. These factors have the potential, if appropriate steps are not taken, to destabilise existing security patterns, heighten tensions and reduce security throughout the region.

But a key challenge economic growth and interaction bring with them is the possibility of a scarcity of resources. The region's rapid economic growth, coupled with the relatively low resource bases of some regional countries give rise to the possibility that over time countries will foresee difficulties in obtaining sufficient resources to support continued high rates of growth.

Ongoing access by the East Asian growth economies to energy and other resources will therefore be central to the maintenance of regional stability. The solution is straight forward. It is the continued development of free and open trading and investment arrangements at both global and regional levels, together with creative, cooperative measures for the joint development of resources.

A final point that should be made here is that regional stability is essential to the maintenance of the region's economic growth. While the region's security landscape is undergoing major change and facing new challenges, there is also a range of forces helping to enhance regional security cooperation. These promising developments include the global trend towards regionalism as a force for stability, the positive impact of technological advances, especially in communications and the emerging sense of shared interest in the region's future that is increasingly evident throughout the Asia Pacific.

These factors lend support to and make more promising the prospects for regional cooperation in this period of transformation. They are tools that Australia must utilise in contributing to the resolution of outstanding issues and to the development of cooperative regional security arrangements.

Australian Objectives

In the short to medium term, the primary objective of Australia's regional security policy will be to discourage the emergence of strategic confrontation in the Asia Pacific region. To this end, the Australian Government will be working to help bring regional countries closer to each other, by contributing to the building of constructive security arrangements in the region. Strengthening the web of Australia's bilateral security links will make a positive contribution to discouraging regional strategic competition. In the longer term, Australia must aim to build a regional environment which is characterised by both resource security, and the development of a culture of trust and consultation.

The question, of course, is how. I have already suggested that the prospects for ensuring the region's long term resource security will best be enhanced by continued liberalisation of trade and investment and other forms of regional cooperation. Australia must be an active and positive contributor to these efforts. With this in mind, Australia will approach building up regional security in three distinct ways.

Country to Country Security Links

In the first instance, the Government will be looking to strengthen the web of ties that Australia has within its immediate region. Australia's regional defence links are already strong and are extensive. Australia is a party to ANZUS [Australia-New Zealand-U.S. Defense Pact]. It is party to the Five Powers Defence Arrangements with Malaysia and Singapore, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Defence Relations with New Zealand are long standing and of ongoing importance and the Government will develop the full potential of the Closer Defence Relations (CDR) agreement. The Joint Declaration of Principles with Papua New Guinea [PNG] enshrines basic principles for the maintenance and strengthening of our defence relations with that country. On the eve of visiting PNG, I want to reaffirm the Government's commitment to the Joint Declaration of Principles and to make particular reference to Australia's shared history and friendship with the Government and people of Papua New Guinea. And, of course, the Agreement on Maintaining Security which was signed late last year has enhanced significantly Australia's security ties with Indonesia. These arrangements together provide a solid foundation for security links between Australia and South East Asia and the Australian Government will be working further to build on that foundation.

In connection with the Australia-Indonesia security relationship, I should note in passing that during my first official visit to Jakarta last month, I reaffirmed the

Australian Government's support for the new Security Agreement. The signing of that Agreement was a logical development of the closer cooperation that has been built with Indonesia in the security field over a number of years. I indicated to the Indonesian Government that the new Australian Government wanted to develop the security relationship not just in terms of defence cooperation but in terms of a dialogue about regional security issues more broadly. I might also note that, in our talks, President Suharto spoke in very clear terms about Indonesia and Australia sharing a destiny in the region.

We must also maintain and strengthen close links with Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Brunei. Constructive interaction between the Australian Defence Force and the defence forces of key countries in our immediate strategic environment will represent an important contribution to confidence building in the region. Strengthened bilateral security dialogue with North Asia countries will also be a priority for the new Government. Beyond their own intrinsic value, a key aim of developing the web of security links I have described here is to strengthen regional security cooperation in a way that does not open up regional divisions or invite strategic competition.

United States' Involvement in Regional Security

A second strand of the Government's approach to regional security will be to ensure a continued, strong United States presence within the East Asian region. It is critical that Australia pays proper heed to the role of the United States in the maintenance of regional security. Australia must, in particular, give due weight to the importance of the United States-Japan security alliance. This alliance locks the United States firmly into the region. It is fundamental to the security and prosperity of the Asia Pacific region. May I say on this point, that the Australian Government welcomes wholeheartedly the recent reaffirmation by President Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto of the strong security relationship between the United States and Japan. Their Joint Declaration on Security demonstrates the vitality of the alliance as a continuing force for regional stability and was welcomed by the Prime Minister Mr Howard who has written to both President Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto expressing these views.

I should also add in passing that the Australian Government welcomes the positive signals emanating from high level meetings such as that between Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Yeltsin in Moscow prior to the recent Nuclear Safety Summit. The central role that is played by the United States in Asia Pacific security

is also demonstrated by the responsibility it has taken in maintaining security on the Korean Peninsula. The United States' presence in the Republic of Korea has been absolutely crucial to the latter's peaceful development over the past forty years.

In respect of recent developments on the Korean Peninsula, the Australian Government fully supports the United States call for four-party talks between the US, the ROK, China and the DPRK. It is a welcome and realistic option that is worth pursuing if a lasting peace for the two Koreas is to be found. Of course, the United States also has security treaties with Thailand, the Philippines and importantly Australia which heightens further the United States' role in the Asia Pacific as the region's anchor of stability.

Regional Security Dialogue

The third strand of the Government's approach to regional security cooperation is regional dialogue and the role of regional institutions.

The ASEAN Regional Forum [ARF] is, at present, proving to be the most comprehensive framework for regional security dialogue. The Government strongly supports the strengthening of the ARF in practical ways. It assists regional countries get into the habit of dialogue and cooperation on defence and security issues. The ARF helps to build trust, a sense of shared interests and a sense of shared responsibility, and the Government believes these are essential for shaping the region's long term security future. Although the ARF is still in its infancy it is beginning to produce concrete results. The annual ARF meeting is at present primarily a dialogue process in which Foreign Ministers exchange views on strategic and security issues of importance to the region. But consensus is now beginning to develop amongst member-states that the ARF should move to implement a number of agreed cooperative measures so that the body can start making a practical contribution to the region's peace and stability.

We should not forget, however, that the East Asia/Pacific region has no prior history of cooperative security groupings. The region has its own peculiar history and dynamics, and we should be wary of transposing the structures and the experience of security cooperation utilised to understand and develop security groupings in other parts of the world. The ARF is, in short, a unique and fledgling body that will develop in its own way and in its own time. It is not the Australian Government's intention that the ARF become a collective defence arrangement such as NATO. Indeed there is little inclination among any of the ARF's member-states for this to happen. The ARF will, however, be increasingly valuable if it continues to instill greater confidence

and transparency in the security thinking of all member-states.

Specifically, the ARF should continue to develop regional dialogue on issues such as defence planning and acquisition, and should take forward the agenda for developing preventive diplomacy in the region. This, in time, may lead to it becoming a body which can negotiate the resolution of disputes through agreed mechanisms.

Cooperative Mechanisms in the Region

I referred earlier to the economic path of trade liberalisation and greater interdependence as the key way in which the potential problem of scarcity could be dealt with. In this context, economic regional institutions have their role to play in dealing with the issue of resource scarcity and so effectively build greater security in the region. The Australian Government is, of course, deeply committed to the development of APEC as the region's pre-eminent institution for economic cooperation. Australia will also continue to pursue as a matter of priority the implementation of the system of international trading rules under the World Trade Organisation.

In addition, the Government will be pro-active in seeking to contribute to creative endeavours to develop jointly scarce resources. Australia has, for example, over a number of years been involved in the work of the Mekong River Commission and its predecessor, the interim Mekong Committee, which is seeking to ensure sustainable and equitable development of the Mekong Basin's resources for all of the countries in the region. This sort of cooperative effort is an example of the ways in which the region can best tackle issues pertaining to ongoing resource security over the long term.

The other component of the Government's longer term objectives, developing mutual trust and respect throughout the region, will be best realised if countries in the region consult regularly and are able to speak frankly about their security concerns. Achieving this objective also requires the Australian Government to work towards the development of closer bilateral ties in the region in addition to contributing actively to region-wide security and economic dialogues. Regional dialogue will also be increasingly important as a means of working through other non-military threats to regional security. A key concern, for example, is ensuring environmental security throughout the region. Other issues, such as human rights, transnational health issues and international crime are also the subject of region-wide discussions. These issues require attention and joint action by regional countries.

Global Security Challenges

Although this speech is concerned with the enhancement of regional security, this region is as vulnerable to global security challenges as any other. Nuclear proliferation and the attainment of nuclear weapons by rogue states or political movements may in time constitute the greatest threat to Australian and global security. The Australian Government is completely opposed to continued nuclear testing. The Australian Government remains fundamentally committed to the terms of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Australia will continue to lead the way in driving forward negotiations for completion of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and the Government will promote an Australian text for that treaty. I remain confident that there will be genuine progress towards a successful conclusion of the Treaty and a permanent ban on all nuclear testing in the near future.

The Government will also take all possible steps to prevent the transfer of nuclear weapons technology and the means of their delivery. Australia will also strongly oppose any action by existing nuclear weapons states which undermines the Non-Proliferation Treaty and which would therefore weaken incentives for threshold countries to remain non-nuclear.

As such I was pleased to announce about two weeks ago the \$2 million [Australian dollars] commitment this year which the new Australian Government has already made to the Korea Energy Development Organisation (KEDO). As evidence of our commitment, the Australian Government has already sponsored the second meeting of the Canberra Commission and looks forward to receiving a constructive, practical and realistic report from the Commission.

The Australian Government will also work to achieve a ban on the production of fissile materials in addition to its maintaining its support for the elimination of nuclear weapons, a position established when the Australian Government of John Gorton signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1970. The Australian Government also recognises the problem posed by the development and proliferation of chemical and biological weapons and remains committed to international attempts to prohibit the manufacture and use of such weapons.

The Government also recognises that anti-personnel landmines continue to have a devastating and indiscriminate impact on people throughout the world.

The Australian Government recently made the historic announcement that Australia will:

— support a global ban on the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of anti-personnel landmines; and

— impose a unilateral suspension on the operational use of anti-personnel landmines by the Australian Defence Force.

It is interesting that it took the new Government less than six weeks to achieve this breakthrough whereas the previous Government had been unable to produce such an outcome within thirteen years in office. All of these developments are of concern to regional security for two reasons.

First, issues such as nuclear proliferation within North Korea and the landmines tragedy of Indo China are problems which disturb our own neighbourhood.

Secondly, the resolution of certain global tensions inevitably helps to create a less fractious and more cooperative international security environment and with it, a more harmonious regional security environment.

That is why in addressing global problems, we are also helping to make our region secure.

Conclusion

All of the above elements of our approach to developing regional security cooperation are mutually reinforcing and the Government will work on them simultaneously. This multifaceted approach, in which strong bilateral relations underpin effective multilateral regional dialogue grows out of the Government pragmatic approach to enhancing Australia's national interests.

As the great British historian E H Carr noted in 'The Twenty Years Crisis', "mature thought in international relations combines purpose with observation and analysis. Sound political thought and sound political life is found where both reality and utopia have their place."

Australia and its neighbours must make the most of the present relatively benign security environment to set in place stable and enduring security arrangements. Only then will we have established the best possible conditions for all the countries of the region to pursue their other fundamental national interest — enhancing national prosperity.

In short, regional security, as with the building up of any relationship between friends, comes through interaction, through trust and through a long term belief in the security of those resources which are vital to continued development. With it, Australia's own security is assured. This outcome of a secure region and with it, a secure Australia will come about through the measures aimed at building up cooperation in the region which I have outlined today.

Australia: Report Warns Businesses of Involvement in Pacific Russia

BK0505145196 Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW in English 18 Apr 96 p

[Report by Geoffrey Barker]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A major Federal Government report warns Australian businesses to beware involvement in Pacific Russia, with a scathing criticism of the region's failure to realise its resource potential.

The report says Australia could face serious competition from Pacific Russia if its long-term promise as a major energy exporter is realised, but adds that the region is unlikely to threaten Australian exports in the short to medium term.

Entitled PACIFIC RUSSIA: RISKS AND REWARDS, the report is the latest in a series of surveys from the East Asia Analytical Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The report notes that last year Pacific Russia was still performing worse than Russia's dismal national economy and that the 7.6 million population was shrinking as people returned to European parts of Russia.

It says economic restructuring has "begun to produce the rudiments of a market economy" but confusion over the distribution of power between local authorities and Moscow is a continuing constraint.

"In the context of economic and political uncertainty, the commercial environment in Pacific Russia is difficult, particularly for foreign business. Legislation is often unclear and the legal enforcement of property rights and contractual obligations is inconsistent.

"Other potential deterrents to investors include Pacific Russia's reputation for lawlessness: organised crime has reportedly made considerable inroads into the business and financial landscape," the report notes.

It says prospects for an increase in Pacific Russia's exports are uncertain. "Only a few industries (and a few companies) are export-oriented. Pacific Russia's production base is weak; most industrial plants are moribund and investment has fallen".

The report says Russia is unlikely to attract significant foreign investment until the political situation stabilises, and Pacific Russia has attracted little of the modest investment so far.

Launching the report, the Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister, Mr Tim Fischer, said that despite

the "challenging" business environment Australian processed foods including cheese, beer and cask wines — had competed successfully with Korean and Chinese products.

**Australia: International Conventions,
Constitutional Provisions Viewed**

**BK0505135496 Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING
HERALD in English 4 May 96**

[Article by Padraic McGuinness: "Time to Take Conventional View of the Constitution — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In his statement to Parliament this week on reform of the treaty-making process, the Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, outlined an important constitutional change. From now on there will be a brake on the use of international conventions to abrogate the provisions of the Australian constitution.

It has long been evident that the use of treaties which were negotiated often with little or no public discussion, even when they were not actually secretly negotiated, and their ratification without consultation with parliament, and sometimes even without proper Cabinet discussion, was greatly enhancing the powers of the bureaucracy and the legal profession.

The fashion for legislation by treaty is still at high tide among academic lawyers and law reformers, but is ebbing rapidly in political circles.

From now on, any treaty which the Australian Government wants to ratify will have to be tabled in Parliament for at least 15 sitting days (which could be quite a prolonged period in real time), considered by a new joint parliamentary committee on treaties, accompanied by a "national interest analysis", and considered by a Treaties Council which will complement the Council of Australian Governments so that there can be input from State and Territory governments.

In addition, much more public information will be available to facilitate genuine community input, not just from favoured pressure groups as has been the case in the past.

There is a saving provision that in special and urgent circumstances a treaty can be ratified bypassing these procedures. However, the main omission of importance in the Downer statement is that there is no reference to procedures for advance consultation and public discussion of treaties in the early stages of negotiation. While some treaties, like the renegotiation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which led to the creation of the World Trade Organisation, are discussed

publicly at length and almost ad nauseam, many others are effectively considered behind closed doors.

Nevertheless the changes mooted will do much to overcome what the minister, quoting the chairman of the Constitutional Centenary Foundation and former Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen, calls the "democratic deficit" in the treaty-making process. To negotiate a treaty and ratify it without even consulting parliament is to legislate, even to make constitutional changes, in a way far beyond any democratic legitimacy.

The courts have added a new wrinkle to this. The High Court in the Teoh case in April last year decided that treaties ratified by the Government must be taken into account in administrative decision-making, even if they have not been enacted into domestic law by the parliament. While this decision can be overruled by parliament, it is indicative of the manner in which lawyers see ways of legislating without parliamentary authority, and even counter to it. There is a busy little academic industry at present trying to argue that international law, including "customary" international law, should have the same force as treaties and therefore the potential to overrule our domestic law.

One of the most important of the initiatives announced by the minister is the creation of a treaties database. The extraordinary truth is that no-one knows exactly how many treaties and conventions we have actually ratified — the High Court estimates it as over 900.

All such instruments will be put on a database and made available over the Internet, so that those who do not have access to a major law library will be able to inspect them.

In reality, the number of treaties used regularly by anti-democratic lawyers is quite small, most being either concerned with human rights or the fantasies of the international industrial relations club of the International Labour Organisation.

Many of these were ratified on motherhood lines — they incorporate vague, highfalutin' sentiments. But, as a result of subsequent High Court decisions, they have become Frankenstein monsters. An excellent example is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

On the face of it, this is pretty innocuous and unobjectionable, indeed praiseworthy, but it was the basis for the Teoh decision which opened up a Newfoundland for legal colonisation of the administrative process.

The Australian Law Reform Commission and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission are beaver away at this new colony and are conducting a national inquiry into children and the legal process

which is dealing with "areas where the law has a direct impact on children". What a bonanza for lawyers this promises to be!

The prospect of a whole "new province for law and order", which would have more to do with the incomes of the legal profession than any genuine protection for children's welfare, horrified even the previous government, although not enough to treat the bill to overrule the Teoh decision as urgent.

The Coalition supported that bill and probably will reintroduce it or something similar in the near future. This will establish a general rule that the doctrine of "legitimate expectation" cannot be used to implement treaties without parliamentary action.

But it is likely that there will be a number of actions, funded by bodies like the Human Rights Commission, undertaken to reintroduce the thrust of the Teoh decision by the back door. A bit of knocking together of bureaucratic heads might be needed to deter such litigation.

The first real test of the Government's resolve to reverse the abuse of treaties as constitutional heads of power to make domestic law will be in its industrial relations reform legislation, where it hopes to rely on the corporations power exclusively, without using the schedules incorporating ILO conventions in the present act.

